

Homes to be divided into seven bands

Heseltine's new council tax 'will lower bills'

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND RAY CLANCY

MICHAEL Heseltine yesterday swept away the last vestiges of the community charge when he announced proposals for a council tax based on property values with a 25 per cent discount for people living alone.

After weeks of speculation, the environment secretary told MPs that homes would be taxed according to seven bands. He promised that average bills would be lower than those of the past three years. Capping powers would be augmented to keep down council spending.

Ministers greeted the proposals as the freeing of the Conservative party from political limbo and Chris Patten, the party chairman, will this morning relaunch the Tory local election campaign. Some Conservatives were worried, however, that the tax would not come into effect until 1993, well after the next election. Labour attacked the plans as a wasted opportunity.

Outlining the proposals in the Commons, Mr Heseltine declared: "The council tax will be simple and cheap to collect. It will require less of single

COUNCIL TAX: MAIN POINTS

- Bills based on property values
- 25 per cent discounts for people living alone
- Seven property bands
- Head of household responsible for bill
- No new registers
- 20 per cent minimum payment abolished
- Tough capping powers and transitional relief stay
- Bills lower than average rates or poll tax, government promises

adults than larger households. It will not impose excessive demands on any households. It will make a clear connection between what councils spend and what people pay. It will be seen to be fair."

This year a council that spent "reasonably" would have charged a household in the lowest band no more than £267 and one on the highest band no more than £668. Households with one adult would have paid no more than £200 in the lowest band and £500 in the highest.

Unlike the poll tax, there will be no register and no minimum contribution. Students, student nurses and trainees would be entitled to discounts and those on income support could pay nothing.

Mr Heseltine also announced the setting up of a local government commission to make recommendations for altering the structure of local government, but he promised that neither county nor district councils would be "abolished wholesale".

Tory MPs hailed the scrapping of poll tax as the end of a nightmare. Jonathan Aitken called Mr Heseltine "the great anaesthetist" - he has taken away the pain.

There was some unease among Tories, however, as Labour developed the line of attack that middle-income earners would be hardest hit since those in the top band would pay only two and a half times those in the lowest, while the poorest were exempted. Bryan Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, said that the average family would pay £67 more under the Tory proposals than under Labour's plans. The

rich would be protected from paying their share and the head tax element which remained bore no relation to ability to pay. Why should a single millionaire receive a 25 per cent discount while pensioner couples struggled on low incomes "to pay the whole whack"?

Calling Labour's arithmetic "specious", Mr Patten said: "We had to unravel this particularly difficult knot. We can now get the argument on to our own agenda. We have the opportunity to attack, which we shall seize."

Local government circles welcomed the demise of the poll tax and the rebates for those on low incomes, but feared confusion before the tax comes in. Alan Jinkinson, general secretary of the local government union Nalgo, said: "Billions of pounds will now be spent converting from a discredited system of taxation to an untried one. It will mean a further several years of confusion and chaos while the collection of the poll tax in the intervening period will be exacerbated."

Sir Jack Layden, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, described it as a Whitehall tax that would give "massive control to government ministers" who would be in effect setting the level of the new tax in every town. "The new tax is excessively complicated and unjust with the wealthy getting the best deal."

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Directors blame Tories for slump

By ROSS THOMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Institute of Directors yesterday savagely criticised the government for allowing inflation to resurge and called for a return to free market ideas in Downing Street.

Peter Morgan, director-general of the right-wing institute, charged that "the business renaissance of the last decade was torpedoed by runaway inflation". To applause from members at the institute's annual convention in London, he said: "This awful recession which is causing so much grief is a failure of government economic management."

Robert Horton, chairman of British Petroleum, said: "The fact is that after 12 years [of

Conservative government] we are still beset by inflation... Our productivity levels are behind many of our competitors... Our pay settlements are far too high. And our labour market is riddled with imperfections which prevent it from working properly."

Earlier, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, reiterated his Budget view that economic growth would resume, slowly at first, in the second half of the year. He did not say to hear the criticism of the government.

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How Ratner keeps the customers satisfied

By OUR INDUSTRIAL REPORTER



Ratner: "I give customers what they want"

GERALD Ratner, chairman and managing director of Britain's biggest jeweller, Ratners Group, yesterday leaped into controversy by declaring that his business success was founded on selling people what they wanted: "total crap."

It was an outrageous admission from the head of a company which only 24 hours before had announced record profits of £112 million. But it did the trick. It won him the attention of his audience despite his failed Charlie slot at the annual convention of the Institute of Directors in London.

That was no small achievement. Albert Hall had already resounded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Norman Lamont, to the verbal pyrotechnics of the BP chairman, Robert Horton, the institute's director general, Peter Morgan, and to the weighty tones of

President de Klerk of South Africa. By the time Mr Ratner stepped on stage, the contents of a seven-course lunchbox and the port and brandy that followed were already beginning to weigh heavily in the stomachs of 3,000 company directors. But Mr Ratner's words were enough to provoke indignation. He spilled the secret of his business success.

In Ratner's 1,000 shops across Britain, Mr Ratner said, in addition to jewellery "we sell things like a teapot for two quid or an imitation open book to lay on your coffee table. The pages don't turn - but they have beautifully curled up corners and genuine antique dust. I know it is in the worst possible taste, but we sold a quarter of a million last year." His audience began to smile appreciatively at his frankness.

"We also do cut glass cherry decanters complete with six glasses on a silver

plated tray - that your butler can serve you drinks on - all for £4.95. People say how can you sell this for such a low price. I say because it is total crap." The businessmen and women started to clap. There was more: "Some people say they cannot even see the jewellery for all the posters and banners smothering the shop windows. It is interesting, isn't it, that these shops, that everyone has a good laugh about, take more money per square foot than any other retailer in Europe. Why? Because we give the customers what they want."

Mr Ratner moved in for the coup de grace. "We even sell a pair of earrings for under £1, which is cheaper than a prawn sandwich from Marks & Spencers. But I have to say the earrings probably won't last as long."

Photograph, page 24

Refugees caught on highway of death

Death and disease are the grim travelling companions of fleeing refugees, reports Edward Gorman from inside Iraq

An international cross-border relief effort is needed on the road between Dams in northern Iraq and Peshawar in Iran to save hundreds of children and old people facing death from the effects of diarrhoea, dehydration and exhaustion.

After crossing the border on Saturday, I travelled the length of the road that winds through a gorge for about 30 miles below the snowline to the plains. Along the way it became clear that the decision of the Iranian authorities to close the border, particularly to families in cars, some of whom had waited for more than a week to get through, had condemned hundreds to death.

At the head of the road and for several miles back from the border, the way was jammed with vehicles and was passable only on foot. It was impossible to tell whether people were trying to get out or had decided to turn back. The motionless lorries, cars, tractor trailers, and even bulldozers, fire engines and cement mixers were in the head-long rush to escape was reminiscent of the flight of the Iraqi army which was incinerated by the allies on the road to Basra.

The vehicles were full of people who had not eaten a proper meal for days. They were drinking water they had washed in and, with no petrol left to keep their vehicle heaters on at night, were suffering in the sub-zero temperatures. Children and parents sat staring, speechless, either in the cars or on the grass, where mines left from the Iran-Iraq war have caused injuries requiring amputations.

A French nurse sitting in the back of a pick-up truck, stuck a few hundred yards inside Iraqi territory with

US warships on alert in warning to Saddam

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAKHO AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

A FRESH confrontation loomed between Iraq and the West as more American warships were sent to the eastern Mediterranean yesterday in a clear warning to Iraq not to interfere with the allied relief operation.

The US Navy said this was in response to growing tension in the border town of Zakho, where American marines building camps for Kurdish refugees are being watched by hundreds of Iraqi forces who have defied an order from allied commanders to leave.

By contrast, US-Iraqi relations took a dramatic step forward as Washington agreed to an Iranian request to supply tents, blankets and medicines for Kurdish refugees in Iran, and may use American aircraft to deliver them. Diplomatic relations were severed in 1979 over the embassy siege in Tehran, and normalisation is still held up by demands that Iran use its influence to secure the release of Western hostages in Lebanon. The new aid deal was negotiated through humanitarian agencies and Swiss intermediaries.

In Zakho, frightened residents said the Iraqi "special forces" had been based in three days ago and had forced Kurds to put back portraits of the hated President Saddam Hussein. Kurdish tribal leaders were being intimidated by the Iraqi presence and yesterday failed to attend their

first scheduled meeting with senior US officers.

The Pentagon said Iraqi troops were asserting Iraqi sovereignty by "demonstrating a presence". Washington would not "make a big issue" of Zakho at this stage because Iraqi actions were not yet interfering with the relief operation or the building of the new camps. But a spokesman admitted problems could arise if terrified refugees refused to leave their mountain refuge because of the Iraq "military police-type force".

An advance party of Royal Marines arrived in northern Iraq yesterday to set up a headquarters for the relief operation. They plan to hike into the mountains to persuade Kurdish refugees to come down into the valley. That task could be made more difficult while Iraqi special forces patrol Zakho, intimidating the residents.

The aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt, which carries about 80 warplanes, and the guided missile cruiser Richmond K. Turner were moving from the Red Sea to strengthen warships from the sixth fleet off the coast of Turkey. While there have been no clashes between the two armies that were at war just two months ago, the American marines in Zakho complained that they found the Iraqi presence menacing. For the Kurdish refugees they

are trying to coax down from the mountains, it is even more so.

"Intimidation levels are really growing. It's a very, very tricky situation. I'm telling you, it's getting wild over there," said Staff Sergeant Lee Tibbets, a spokesman for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit which is in charge of security for the camp on the outskirts of Zakho. The marines say it is too dangerous to enter Zakho at night.

"Saddam wants these forces to have a high profile in Zakho so the people don't think he's being bullied by the Americans," said Mohammed Tofik, a spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdistan Front. "But Saddam won't risk any clashes with Americans."

Meanwhile, it was reported in London that nine nations have promised to pay the government £2 billion to meet the costs of Britain's role in the military effort to drive Saddam out of Iraq.

Zakho tension, page 12
Focus on Kuwait, pages 30-32

Red carpet comes out for Walesa

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

NEVER in their 45 years in England had the three old soldiers seen their native Poland so honoured. With red and white sashes proudly worn over a chestful of medals, they held aloft the banner of free Poland to greet President Walesa as he stepped forward with a gruff dignity and a brief bow to shake hands with the Queen.

It was a long way for the brave veterans from exile in Siberia, escape to wartime England and fighting on the Normandy beaches to the gentle green of Windsor Great Park, where they joined the small crowd of cheering Poles. It was a long way also from the Odansk shipyards, imprisonment and a decade of tumultuous political struggle for the busy electrician who now stood with Her Majesty on the dais at the start of a four-day state visit.

As tribute to the man who began a decade ago to hammer at the walls of totalitarianism, Continued on page 24, col 2

APPEAL FOR REFUGEES

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All the world's a stage: Alan Fyaz's Macbeth remonstrates with Maria Capoluongo's Lady Macbeth at North Westminster community school, London, where the play was being rehearsed yesterday

By JOHN YOUNG

"Infirm of purpose! Give me the daggers. The sleeping and the dead are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood that fears a painted devil."

For the umpteenth millionth time, Macbeth is being harangued as a wimp by his other half, this time in the person of Alan Fyaz and Maria Capoluongo, both aged 12 and pupils at North Westminster community school, just off the Harrow Road. Alan's parents are from Iran, Maria's from Italy; Alan

and Maria were both born in Britain and enunciate their lines quite beautifully. Last week, it was Oedipus and the Greek theatre. Next week, it will be medieval mystery and morality plays. In the meantime, Shakespeare, despite the din from next door where four or five children are trying to play the piano at once, is getting an encouragingly sympathetic hearing.

Maria and Alan consider the Prince of Wales's strictures slightly unfair, at least so far as their school is concerned. Maria has seen *Hamlet* on television, read *Othello* and been to see *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Regent's Park. "I enjoy Shakespeare," she says. "He's really good."

Alan says: "To be fair, Prince Charles couldn't have been talking about every school, not ours anyway. We do a lot of Shakespeare, and it's very interesting." Their audience is more guarded. "It's all right," Jenny McNeill concedes. "We watched a film of *Romeo and Juliet*," Yun Choy Chan says. "I felt it was OK, but sometimes there was a bit too much carrying on." "A bit soppy for me," Zuber Hussain adds. "I like things more action packed."

Their drama teacher, Moring Marshall, from Fife, who has taught for five years in London, loves Shakespeare and says that on the whole her pupils' reaction is very positive. "If you are teaching drama, you have to teach Shakespeare as part of the whole history of the theatre. I have to say I think Prince Charles is quite right. But motivation depends on discipline. I see vast differences between my own

school days in Scotland and teaching in London."

A few streets away, Mark Pattenden has just finished rehearsing A-level students in *Measure for Measure*. "We are given the option not to include Shakespeare in the syllabus," he points out. "But I always choose to do so. The students' attitude to Shakespeare when they first come across him is usually 'Oh God, not that man in tights'. But when they listen they see that a play like *Measure for Measure* transcends its period. The issues are still just as relevant."

The eye of childhood captures the Bard

Study of Shakespeare is rarely dodged in exams

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Prince of Wales can be reassured that the study of Shakespeare is alive and well in England, although some schools do dodge him. He figures in nearly all public examinations, children as young as 13 are staging his plays and he is enshrined in the national curriculum. In the Shakespeare annual lecture, the prince said that Britain's schools were ignoring the Bard and that, as a result, educational standards were dropping. One A-level course would pass students who had not read a word of Shakespeare's plays or sonnets, he said.

He was probably referring to the A-level courses set by the Associated Examining Board and the Joint Matriculation Board. The AEB joint language and literature course does include Shakespeare, but he is not compulsory. Candidates do, however, have to choose between Shakespeare and Chaucer. George Turnbull, for the board, said: "They can avoid Shakespeare, but they cannot avoid classical literature." He added that Shakespeare was compulsory in A-level literature.

Shakespeare can be dodged in GCSE papers which offer him as an optional question—but not for long. All pupils aged 14 will have to study Shakespeare from September 1992 for the examination in the summer of 1994, to comply with the national curriculum, which makes Shakespeare a compulsory part of the joint English paper.

Until then, schools are offering English language and literature as two separate examinations. Only one GCSE board ignored Shakespeare in the written paper. Chris Taylor, of the London and East Anglian group, said that the Bard's work was not one of the texts used in the written paper, which included Charles Dickens, William Golding and Gerald Durrell.

The general view of all the examination boards was that they offered Shakespeare in their syllabuses, but it was up to the schools to decide whether or not their pupils should study him. Dick Whitaker, of the Northern Examination Association, said that, although Shakespeare was optional in all their GCSE papers, he was chosen by many pupils.

The 14,000 candidates sitting the association's written examination last year could choose from five prose texts, which had to include a novel written before the 20th century, and a selection of short stories or five drama texts, which would have included one Shakespeare play. A second syllabus based on drama, prose and poetry set and marked by the schools on the advice of the board attracted 47,000 entries. Most schools chose some Shakespeare, but it was quite often based on extracts rather than one work, Mr Whitaker said.

The most popular examination was the joint English language and literature course, taken by 100,000 students. Mr Whitaker insisted that many students chose to write about Shakespeare. Written GCSE papers set by the Midland Examining Group include extracts from *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, alongside other authors. However, as children have to answer only two questions, they can avoid Shakespeare. Even in the drama section, Shakespeare can be avoided if candidates opt for other authors. When it comes to A-level literature, however, Shakespeare cannot be dodged. All the papers demand knowledge of two Shakespeare plays out of list of three or four plays.

Geoffrey Parker, High Master of Manchester grammar school, shared the prince's concern. "I have a lot of sympathy with Prince Charles's comments on English literature. There is a great worry about the possible removal of Shakespeare from schools all over the country."

Details of speech questioned

AS DETAILS of the prince's speech were mullied over yesterday, a handful of factual mistakes and misunderstandings emerged to support the immediate reaction of Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, who questioned the general tone but questioned some statistics (David Tytler writes).

Prince's concern strikes a chord on banks of Avon

By CRAIG SETON

THE Prince of Wales's concern that thousands of school leavers may never have read Shakespeare struck a resounding chord yesterday at the Bard's old school in Stratford-upon-Avon, where the obligation to teach his works is as well entrenched as the foundations of the 15th-century building.

Peter Bullock, head of English at King Edward VI grammar school, was delighted that the prince had expressed the fear he too holds that children at some schools are being denied their literary heritage by educationists. Mr Bullock, aged 54, ensures that Shakespeare remains on the curriculum for all children taking GCSE and A-level courses and believes that the Bard's works should be compulsory for all pupils from the age of 14. This year *Macbeth*, *Antony and Cleopatra* and *Romeo and Juliet* are being studied at the 400-pupil voluntary-aided school.

Mr Bullock said: "I do feel it is an obligation to teach Shakespeare at his old school, but if I was at a school in Wigan I would want to teach Shakespeare. There is no compulsion to teach Shakespeare at GCSE and it is possible for a pupil to leave school at 16 without having read any real classic. Chaucer and Milton used to be compulsory, but now they are an option."

He said a progressive educational philosophy had developed over the last 20-25 years that children could learn simply by being together and add: "I know it sounds reactionary, but many classrooms have become adventure playgrounds and not places for discipline in learning." Children who did not study Shakespeare missed out on their cultural heritage and a vital ingredient in the study of the language. A trend had

Touring group fills a breach

By SIMON TAIT

ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SHAKESPEARE has an undiminished appeal for theatre audiences.

In the West End, one can see *Coriolanus* and *A Winter's Tale* by the English Shakespeare Company, *King Lear*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Comedy of Errors* and *Troilus and Cressida* by the Royal Shakespeare Company, *Richard III* by the National Theatre or *Twelfth Night* by the Peter Hall Company.

The closure of the British Theatre Association library last year has meant that there is no longer any means of matching the number of current performances with previous years, but the spread of West End Shakespeare is not matched in the provinces. Shakespeare is expensive to put on, needing casts of at least a dozen.

Aside from Stratford, where the RSC has *Henry IV Parts I and II*, *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo*



Sir Peter: "An appalling state of affairs"

and *Julius Caesar* at the Bristol Old Vic, *Julius Caesar* at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Nuffield, Southampton. The English Shakespeare Company is touring with *The Merchant of Venice*.

Sir Peter Hall, former artistic director of the National Theatre and the RSC and now with his own company, said last night: "For the last ten to 12 years, regional theatres have been squeezed and squeezed until they can't do any Shakespeare any more. Actors going to the national companies now may never have acted in a Shakespeare play, and audiences in the regions may never have seen one, an appalling state of affairs. That's why the work of companies like the ESC is so important."

Michael Pennington and Michael Bogdanov set up the ESC five years ago as a touring company and were advised to make Shakespeare their theme by the Arts Council. "The public enthusiasm for Shakespeare is just the same as it was when we started," said Mr Pennington, who is starring in both London productions, which have been markedly more successful during their regional tour than they have been in the West End.

Written GCSE papers set by the Midland Examining Group include extracts from *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, alongside other authors. However, as children have to answer only two questions, they can avoid Shakespeare. Even in the drama section, Shakespeare can be avoided if candidates opt for other authors. When it comes to A-level literature, however, Shakespeare cannot be dodged. All the papers demand knowledge of two Shakespeare plays out of list of three or four plays.

Geoffrey Parker, High Master of Manchester grammar school, shared the prince's concern. "I have a lot of sympathy with Prince Charles's comments on English literature. There is a great worry about the possible removal of Shakespeare from schools all over the country."

Those figures were correct in 1986 and are the latest available for the overseas countries, but the British figure has risen to 37 per cent with a further 27 per cent in full or part-time training.

He said a progressive educational philosophy had developed over the last 20-25 years that children could learn simply by being together and add: "I know it sounds reactionary, but many classrooms have become adventure playgrounds and not places for discipline in learning." Children who did not study Shakespeare missed out on their cultural heritage and a vital ingredient in the study of the language. A trend had

Reading methods attacked

READING standards may be lowered by the introduction of the national curriculum, the man who prompted the latest debate on teaching methods claims today in a report published by the Centre for Policy Studies (John O'Leary writes).

Martin Turner, an educational psychologist whose claims that reading standards were falling sparked government enquiries last summer, argues that unsound teaching methods are enshrined in the new curriculum for English. The "phonic" method of teaching reading by using the alphabet to decode words receives only a passing mention in the curriculum, encouraging unsound methods.

Traditional methods are being undermined by the curriculum, Mr Turner says. Instead of becoming familiar with the alphabet, children are encouraged to guess words. He calls for the replacement of laborious testing methods by simple "paper and pencil" tests.

Private sector grows despite recession

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT schools have overcome the recession to record their eighth successive rise in pupils, their information service reported yesterday.

Parents are responding to the fears voiced by the Prince of Wales by putting record numbers of children into private schools to start their education. Only boarding and sixth forms are proving sensitive to fee rises, which continue to outpace inflation.

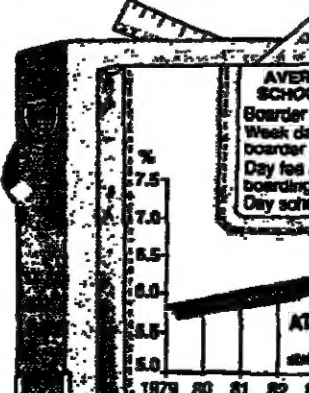
The annual census of schools belonging to the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS), which represents 80 per cent of the private sector, showed that the number of pupils went up slightly to 473,000 this year. Almost a quarter were receiving help through scholarships or bursaries.

A decline in pupil numbers during the last recession, combined with several recent school closures, had

encouraged speculation that yesterday's census would mark the end of a record period of expansion. Instead, the figures showed that at least 7.5 per cent of all pupils now attend independent schools.

David Woodhead, the ISIS director, admitted that he would not have been surprised if numbers had declined in a year when fees rose by 12.5 per cent. He said, however: "While the recession may have caused some children to be withdrawn from independent schools or not to have been sent, it has not been enough to reverse the upward trend which has been evident since 1983."

Parents valued the small classes, strong discipline and wide curriculum that the schools offered. Many parents now had the protection of fee insurance schemes, while others were prepared to make any sacrifice to



ensure that their children's education was not disrupted. Fees have risen faster than inflation for the past six years, reflecting higher salaries and building costs. Donald Caskie, who chairs the bursars' association, said that the trend was likely to continue. The survey showed 4.6 per cent fewer boys and 2.8

per cent fewer girls boarding, but the numbers of weekly boarders increased over the same period. Enid Castle, the headmistress of Cheltenham Ladies College, said that parents were looking for places nearer home and wanted more flexible arrangements so that they could see their children regularly. Boarding has been

in decline for more than a decade.

The largest increases were among nursery pupils and infants under seven. David Prichard, chairman of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, said: "I find the majority of parents who come to my study say their child is not being stretched. They know their child has more ability than their school recognises."

Only from the age of 14 do numbers begin to drop, after the lower numbers in secondary schools nationally. This year's drop in independent sixth form enrolments is the first since 1985.

While boarding continued to decline, the number of day pupils more than compensated, rising by 1.7 per cent. The rise among girls, who represent 45 per cent of pupils in ISIS schools, was again greater than that for boys.

June Hilder, page 16

Appraisal link angers teachers

DRAFT regulations for the compulsory appraisal of teachers were issued by the government yesterday and immediately ran into trouble with one of the largest teacher unions (David Tytler writes).

Nigel de Gruchy, secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said that the draft conflicted with ministers' guarantees that pay and appraisal would not be linked directly. "We have obviously been consulted on a false prospectus," he said.

All the teacher unions have said that they will refuse to cooperate with appraisal, which is to be introduced in September, if there is a direct link with pay or promotion. The draft says that there will be no direct link but headteachers should take the appraisal statement into account when making decisions on promotion and pay.

The education department insisted last night that there were no significant changes from earlier proposals.

School forced to suspend tests

By ADAM FRESCO

FIFTY parents of seven-year-olds have forced the headmaster of a Cardiff primary school to suspend national curriculum testing of their children after complaining that the pupils were becoming distressed and not sleeping.

The parents had threatened to withdraw the pupils unless the testing was stopped. They said that after the tests began a week ago the children had become disruptive at home, anxious before going off to school and suffering insomnia. The headmaster of Catech primary school suspended the tests until meeting with parents next week. The school had hoped that the tests could be shifted to the everyday running of lessons without children feeling added pressure.

Cethin Lewis, the headmaster, said yesterday: "I didn't want to have children kept at home and I told the parents I would rather put the tests on hold for this week and we will look into the effects." The move comes as parents in Leeds, Sally and John Charlton, claimed they had found loopholes in the provisions for testing, enabling them to keep their child from taking them. The couple had kept their son Mark away from Brudenell First school in Hyde Park, Leeds, for four days to avoid the tests in mathematics, English and science.

Mr Charlton said: "We have handed in a letter to Mrs Priestley asking for exemption. She has two weeks to consider the application. If she responds in the negative, we can appeal to the school governors and, if necessary, to the Lords."

A Leeds education spokesman said the authority's understanding of the law was that the clause was meant to apply to sick or emergency disturbed children, but the decision was up to the headteacher.

BBC TV to cut 720 jobs

More than 720 BBC television producers, technicians and post-production staff are to lose their jobs during the present financial year as part of a plan to achieve savings of £25 million annually in the division by 1991.

Broadcasting unions were told of the redundancies yesterday. Nine per cent of the corporation's London-based television staff are to go, at a saving of £14.5 million. Will Wyatt, the BBC's managing director designate of television, said he hoped most of the redundancies would be achieved voluntarily, but that compulsory redundancies would be "unavoidable".

MP's bag stolen

Rosie Barnes, the Social Democrat MP for Greenwich, had her bag snatched during a shopping trip in Lewisham, southeast London, while leaving her car in the underground car park of a Tesco store when the thief grabbed the bag from her shoulder and escaped in a car driven by an accomplice. Mrs Barnes, who chased the man and made a note of the car number, said that she felt outraged.

Embassy plans

Plans for a new British embassy in Dublin, to replace the building burnt down in 1972, were unveiled last night by Sir Nicholas Fenn, the British ambassador. Allier & Morrison, who beat three other architects for the commission, has designed a three-storey building with Georgian references. All four designs are being shown at the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, in Dublin.

Rail talks fail

Talks between British Rail and unions broke down yesterday after nearly three hours over a new 7 per cent pay offer. BR said the offer, an increase of half a per cent, was final and would apply to 95,000 staff. Jimmy Knapp, leader of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union, said the new offer was unacceptable and it was possible industrial action would be recommended to his executive.

CORRECTION

In yesterday's paper it was reported that 400,000 bottles of wine could be lost from this year's Bordeaux production. The figure should have been 400 million bottles.

Source: The Times newspaper. Editor: John O'Leary. Managing Editor: John O'Leary. Deputy Managing Editor: John O'Leary. Assistant Managing Editor: John O'Leary. Sub-editor: John O'Leary. Journalist: John O'Leary. Photographer: John O'Leary. Designer: John O'Leary. Printer: John O'Leary. Publisher: John O'Leary. Address: 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 020 7400 2000. Fax: 020 7400 2001. Email: info@times.co.uk. Website: www.times.co.uk.

Pilot could disast

By HARVEY ELIOT

AIRCORRESPONDENT

ONE of the worst accidents in aviation history was avoided yesterday when a British Airways jumbo jet carrying 255 passengers skidded on the runway at Heathrow after missing its landing approach. A court was told yesterday that the jet's captain, William Glen Stewart, of Wokingham, Berkshire, was accused on two counts of criminal negligence and putting his aircraft, passengers and people on the ground in danger. He denied the charges.

Heathrow crown court in London was told that for 17 seconds he did nothing as red lights on his instrument panel warned him that he was flying further and further from a safe touchdown. Many motorists on the ground and workers in the buildings over which the aircraft passed were convinced that it would crash, the court was told. Even when Captain Stewart eventually pulled up and went around he reacted three times slower than he should have done, David Morris, for the prosecution, said.

"If that aircraft had not managed to abort its landing attempt when it did and it had carried on for a few more seconds, or perhaps even less, and crashed, it is plain that the consequences would have been catastrophic," Mr Morris said. "A wide-bodied jet crash landing at 150 knots in that area would have wrought such death and destruction as to place the accident among

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By SHEILA GUNN, POL

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The programme included: ☐ an annual 10 per cent in the number of animals used in experiments; ☐ an immediate ban on animal experiments for cosmetics, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, the LD50 and Draize tests; ☐ development of non-animal research methods; ☐ phasing out battery chicken cages over ten years; ☐ amending 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act to ban all mares; ☐ government pressure for an EC ban on the import of fur from wild-caught animals; and ☐ a ban on all fur factories.

The manifesto, launched at a Westminster press conference, was supported by an MP from the three main parties and will be sent to prospective parliamentary candidates. In turn the three groups will ask voters to put pressure on candidates in the next general election campaign to back the changes.

Strip man alleges racism

A STRIP-A-GRAM who denies indecently assaulting 11 women told a court yesterday that he was racially abused and attacked by one of them.

Michael Crosby said that the groin after repeatedly calling him either a "black bastard" or a "nigger". Mr Crosby, aged 32, of Tottenham, north London, told Kingston crown court that he was also racially abused by Jennifer Cairns. He said that Miss Cairns, who was celebrating her birthday, was so unco-operative he had to abandon his act. Other clients he allegedly indecently exposed as a policeman, arresting them and then stripping himself. Mr Crosby told police that he was faithful to his fiancée and that his work "did not turn him on". The trial continues today.

Pilot's negligence could have led to disaster, court told

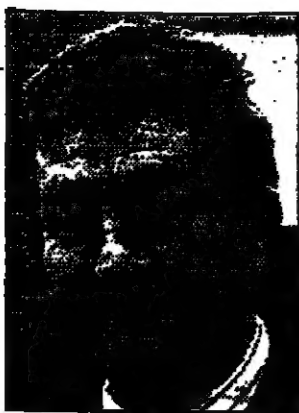
By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the worst accidents in aviation history was avoided by 12ft when a British Airways jumbo jet carrying 255 passengers skidded 200 yards from the main runway at Heathrow after missing its landing approach, a court was told yesterday.

The jet's captain, William Glen Stewart, of Wokingham, Berkshire, was accused on two counts of criminal negligence and putting his aircraft, passengers and people on the ground in danger. He denied the charges.

Isleworth crown court in London was told that for 17 seconds he did nothing as red lights on his instrument panel warned him that he was flying further and further from a safe touch-down. Many motorists on the ground and workers in the buildings over which the aircraft passed were convinced that it would crash, the court was told. Even when Captain Stewart eventually pulled up and went around he reacted three times slower than he should have done, David Morris, for the prosecution, said.

"If that aircraft had not managed to abort its landing attempt when it did it had carried on for a few more seconds, or perhaps even less, and crashed, it is plain that the consequences would have been catastrophic," Mr Morris said. "A wide-bodied jet crash landing at 150 knots in that area would have wrought such death and destruction as to place the accident among



Stewart denies putting lives at risk

some of the worst in aviation history. All this was avoided by a few feet."

The jury heard how the British Airways flight from Bahrain on November 21 1989 had been instructed to head for runway 27 right, which runs east to west along the northern edge of Heathrow airport. As it emerged from low cloud soon after 8am, drivers near by saw it pass over their heads filling the whole of their windcreens and convincing many that it would crash.

A reconstruction of the flight from the "black box" recorder showed that the aircraft had been as low as 75ft from the ground. The telephone exchange over which it passed is 63ft high.

Mr Morris said: "Captain Stewart was criminally irresponsible for placing his aircraft, passengers and people on the ground in this perilous position." Although he was an experienced pilot, aged 54 and

with 14,750 flying hours, "sometimes experienced pilots, like experienced motorists, fall below the standards required. He did just that."

On the flight from Bahrain the first officer had been ill with food poisoning and Captain Stewart had allowed him to spend much of the flight resting. The first officer was also not fully qualified to operate the type of instrument landing required.

Mr Morris described how the aircraft had been guided by air traffic control down to 3,000ft and ordered to report when it was fully locked on to the radio beam indicating the centre line of the runway. One of the auto-pilots that had to be used for a landing in such poor visibility, with cloud down to 150ft, responded slowly and allowed the aircraft to fly through the beam.

"The black box reveals how at that point the progress started to go wrong. What began as a minor and easily corrected hitch was allowed to develop into one of grave danger to the aircraft, its occupants and people on the ground," Mr Morris said.

As the aircraft descended at a rate of 14ft per second, the automatic pilot continued to fly through the localiser beam. Had it established the aircraft for an automatic landing two



lights should have illuminated on the instrument panel, but there was no evidence of that.

By the time the aircraft had reached 1,000ft without being established a trained pilot should have immediately aborted the landing and gone round again. Captain Stewart did not do so, Mr Morris said.

The aircraft was weaving from side to side of the localiser and at no time had settled down.

As aircraft approaching the same Heathrow runway passed overhead, the court was told how Captain Stewart finally disconnected the auto-pilot and took control himself. "Seventeen seconds in aviation terms is an awful long time," Mr Morris said. As the aircraft pulled away it took 16 seconds to reach the correct climbing angle, three times longer than usual. "This suggests that he failed to respond with the degree of urgency which the situation demanded."

The aircraft's purser, Roger Chambers, said that he saw the aircraft flying closer than usual to hotels along the A4, and he noticed the Ariel hotel on the right. Benjamin Chilcott, an office worker, described how he was on the second floor of the Cardinal Point office block when he saw the jet coming towards him "worryingly low". The aircraft was climbing, and he described how it would have passed over the Penta hotel.

The hearing continues today.



Wise heads: children of Westminster cathedral school wearing safety helmets when Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, launched a £1.2 million campaign in London yesterday to cut death and injuries among child cyclists by persuading them to wear helmets.

Mr Rifkind said: "Over 9,000 child cyclists are killed or injured every year. No parent should ever let their child ride a bicycle without first making certain that they are happy with the way in which their child handles the bike, signals and copes with traffic."

Some children might be unwilling to wear helmets as their friends do not or because they felt self-conscious, he said. The campaign aimed to change that attitude. "Helmets are an essential part of cycling gear. It is smart to wear a helmet. As our campaign slogan says: Tough nuts are hard to crack - wear a helmet."

The campaign will include a television commercial, a video for schools, and three million leaflets for distribution to parents and children.

Cost of hospital supplies in need of firm controls

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SOME health authorities are spending 150 per cent more on hospital supplies than others, according to a report from the National Audit Office published today.

Big savings could be made if much stronger controls were applied to the £4 billion a year spent on food, bedding and medical equipment, John Bourn, the comptroller and auditor general, says. Surgical gloves are one of the prime offenders, with doctors ordering several types at varying prices: the cheapest gloves ordered by Oxford regional health authority are, at 54p, more than double the price of the cheapest gloves bought by Wessex region, at 22p.

The report says that, in some hospitals, doctors and nurses use the most expensive surgical gloves for routine non-surgical work, for which other, less-expensive gloves could be used. The price of disposable hypodermic needles varies by 25 per cent between the same regions, while the cost of pencils and packets of comicalinks can differ by 60-70 per cent.

Distribution centres of supplies need to be centralised to save on storage and handling costs and to get access to discounts through bulk buying, the audit office says. At present, 5,000 supplies staff deal with more than 20,000 suppliers and 5,000 delivery points. Each of the 14 English regions is responsible for making

its own arrangements for supplying users, guided by the health department's procurement directorate.

The report suggests that the NHS could save money by strengthening management of supplies, improving information technology and having more flexible use of storage and distribution facilities. The number of stores depots have already been cut from 400 in 1985 to 100 in 1991, but the report suggests those could be further reduced.

Trent region, for example, has only one store depot, while South West Thames has 17. The range of supplies purchased and the number of suppliers could also be cut, the report says.

However, it warns that under the health service reforms, regions may be moving away from centralisation. In addition, self-governing hospitals will now be responsible for their own supplies.

"The degree of local autonomy generally allowed in the national health service has slowed down the pace of central initiatives," the report says. "Further improvements need the continued support of the management executive coupled with much clearer regional and national oversight." The report calls for an action plan linked to timetables and targets for which local managers will be held personally accountable.

Surgical glove (pair)	
Oxford	54p
Wessex	22p
Contraceptive (500g box)	
Oxford	57p
Wessex	5p
Identification bracelet (each)	
Oxford	8p
Wessex	22p
Disposable nappy (box of 300)	
Oxford	22.91
Wessex	22.88
Elastic bandage (roll)	
Oxford	£2.73
Wessex	£1.74
Photocopying paper (ream)	
Oxford	£2.04
Wessex	14p
Disposable hypodermic needle (10)	
Oxford	14p
Wessex	12p

Source: NAO Questionnaire

Ex-fiancée 'threatened suicide over breakup'

A FARMER told a jury yesterday that his former fiancée, who is accused of killing his wife by shooting her in the back of the head, threatened to commit suicide when he broke off their engagement.

William Smith, aged 36, told Leeds crown court that Yvonne Sleightholme, who has gone blind since Jayne Smith was shot dead, also told him that she had leukaemia and that the stress of the breakup would kill her.

Mr Smith, of Salton, near Malton, North Yorkshire, described how in January 1987 he broke off a seven-year relationship with Miss Sleightholme just weeks before they were due to be married. By that time Mr Smith was having a relationship with Jayne Milford, a nurse he knew from school and whom he later married.

Stephen Williamson, QC, for the prosecution, has alleged that Sleightholme became filled with jealousy and hatred for Mrs Smith and shot her. Sleightholme, of Seamer, near Scarborough, North Yorkshire, pleads not guilty to murdering Mrs Smith on December 13, 1986.

Paul Worsley, QC, for Miss Sleightholme, later accused Mr Smith of hiring hitmen to kill his wife. He said that Mr Smith had started seeing and having sexual intercourse again with Miss Sleightholme just two months after the marriage.

He said: "I have to suggest to you that by the end of November 1988 you had decided to do away with your wife. I suggest that you were not prepared to bring about her death by pulling the trigger yourself but that you did possibly through men whom you had met through your drug involvement."

Mr Smith denied the charges. The trial continues today.

Ex-model sues over failed abortion

A FORMER model claimed damages in the High Court yesterday for alleged negligence over an abortion, which resulted in her giving birth to an unplanned child and her career coming to an end.

Dallas Bonell, aged 37, had a daughter after a failed termination operation at a London hospital in May 1984, the court was told. She is claiming medical negligence damages against her GP, the hospital consultant who carried out the operation and a health authority.

Miss Bonell, formerly of Notting Hill Gate, northwest London, who now lives with her daughter Cloe in Melbourne, Australia, had the operation because she did not want children, the court was told. John Watson, her counsel, told Mr Justice Fargher that, after discovering she was still pregnant, Miss Bonell was told by Dr Ursula Lloyd, a consultant, that the only option was for a termination by induced labour. Her opinion was confirmed by Dr George Kaye, GP.

She did not wish to have an abortion by this method, and gave birth to her daughter in January 1985. She claimed that the abortion failed because of medical negligence and that afterwards she was given negligent advice about the method of termination open to her.

She alleged that it was wrong to say at that stage of

her pregnancy that she could only have an induced labour abortion. Negligence is denied by Dr Kaye, a GP at Lord North Street, Westminster, and at the Cromwell hospital, south-west London; Dr Lloyd, who carried out the operation at the now-closed South London hospital, and Wandsworth health authority.

Miss Bonell's damages claim includes compensation for the pain and suffering of the continued pregnancy and



Bonell: had earned about £15,000 a year after tax

the birth, the cost of the upkeep of the child and loss of earnings. Giving evidence, she said that before Cloe's birth she was a professional model earning about £15,000-a-year after tax, but that she was unable to continue working after the birth. "I am still unable to do my work because I have a child."

The hearing continues today.

Poll pledge plea on animal rights

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

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Banned dons show pulling power at the bar

By TIM JONES

IF PHILOSOPHY is generally concerned with the study of ultimate reality, Plato, Socrates and Thales would have been happy yesterday at the Inn on the Lake in Swansea.

There, behind a door leading to the bar with its one armed bandits and electronic games, they would have heard Colwyn Williamson lecturing on Gottfried Leibniz, one of whose works on human understanding is entitled *New Essays*.

Such understanding is a quality much craved by Mr Williamson and Michael Cohen, a fellow lecturer, who have been banned from University College, Swansea, for publicly questioning academic standards.

Like all academic tussles, the issues are intricate and morally complex. Scant of the dispute has permeated to every university in the land and battle has been joined by academics who between them have enough qualifications to fill a firm volume.



Serving up knowledge: Colwyn Williamson lecturing at a Swansea public house

degrees in philosophy and health care to students who had produced below-standard work. They claim no one who has studied the course has failed to graduate, including one student who apparently confused philosophy with plagiarism.

Three of the five lecturers involved in the allegations have left the college. One, Anne Mackean, received a

£53,000 payoff after signing a clause that banned her from ever again speaking about the dispute or university.

Mr Williamson, aged 53, said yesterday: "If we lose this battle over the right to voice our concerns over standards, no lecturer in the land is safe. To award degrees when they are not deserved destroys the whole basis for being a teacher." He and Mr

Cohen were continuing to hold their lectures in the public house because they felt an obligation to their students.

One of their main allegations is that the examining board failed to apply proper academic standards. Fourteen professors of philosophy who have publicly supported the lecturers stated: "These proceedings look like a strat-

FOR HIM THE WAR WAS TERRIBLE

THE PEACE IS WORSE

For us in the West, the Gulf War is over. But for this child, and the people of the Gulf region, there is no end to the torment. Millions, mainly Kurds, have been driven from their homes. Many face death from cold, starvation and disease as they attempt to escape to neighbouring countries like Iran and Turkey.

And it is not only the refugees who suffer. The war has left countless families without basic necessities. In Iraq 4 million people don't even have clean water, so children are dying from diarrhoea.

The Red Cross has been in the Gulf region from the start of the crisis, providing medical aid and working to restore clean water supplies.

Now, as the crisis mounts, we are mobilising in a worldwide operation to save lives - including a massive airlift of food, medicines, tents and blankets for the refugees.

But we can only do it with your help. Right now, our urgent need is for money. Please help us today. Send your donation to our Gulf Appeal. Post to: Red Cross Gulf Appeal, P.O. Box 121, London SW1X 7EW.

YES, I'LL SUPPORT THE RED CROSS GULF APPEAL

Here is my gift of: £100 ☐ £75 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £15 ☐ Other £ _____

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(Please make your cheque/PO payable to the Red Cross Gulf Appeal.)

☎ 0898 234222 TELEPHONE OUR 24-HOUR DONATION LINE AND QUOTE YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER

OR, to give by credit card, write your card number here: _____

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Card No. _____

Signature _____ Date _____

British Red Cross

Post to: Red Cross Gulf Appeal, P.O. Box 121, London SW1X 7EW. You can also make a donation at any Bank or Post Office. (Calls will be charged at 45p per minute peak, 34p per minute off-peak, and 21p per minute will be rebated to the Appeal Fund.)

Heseltine allocates homes to seven bands for new tax

By PHILIP WEBSTER
AND NICHOLAS WOOD

ALL 22.2 million homes in Britain will be allocated to one of seven bands according to their market value under the council tax unveiled by the government yesterday as its replacement for the community charge.

Households across England, Scotland and Wales will receive a bill based on the assumption that they contain two occupants. People living alone will receive discounts of 25 per cent. In a break with the principle of the poll tax, there will be no extra charge for third, fourth or subsequent occupants of a property.

Because only 2.75 million households contain three or more occupants, however, 90 per cent of all adults will be taken account of in household bills. The personal element in the new people and property tax is deemed by the government to be 50 per cent. The single person will pay half of that; the 25 per cent discount.

Heads of household will be responsible for paying the bill and, unlike the community charge,

there will be no separate register. It will be up to the head of the household to decide how the bill will be shared if more than two adults live in a home.

After weeks of disclosures about the likely shape of the new tax, the greatest attention was last night focused on the way the banding system will operate, its impact on family budgets and comparisons with the liabilities people face this year under the community charge. The tax is expected to come into force in 1993.

The 38-page consultation document is far more in line with recommendations than at one time seemed likely. It comes down firmly against basing the tax on rental values or the rebuilding costs of properties. Instead, the government is opting for a variation of capital values in which properties would be put in one of seven bands according to their estimated open-market value.

Figures released by the government suggested that the bottom band will cover properties worth up to £40,000 and the top band will start with homes worth

£160,000. These figures are based on the assumption that the average property in England today is worth £80,000. Under the approach favoured by the government the bottom band, or band A, would include properties worth up to 50 per cent of the average property value; band B would cover properties worth 50 to 65 per cent of this sum (£40,000 to £52,000); C 65 per cent to 85 per cent (£52,000 to £68,000); D 85 per cent to 110 per cent (£68,000 to £88,000); E 110 per cent to 150 per cent (£88,000 to £120,000); F 150 per cent to 200 per cent (£120,000 to £160,000) and G over 200 per cent (£160,000 or more).

In Wales and Scotland there will be a different banding system, reflecting their cheaper property prices. Band A in Wales will cover properties up to £30,000, B up to £36,000, C up to £51,000, D up to £56,000, E up to £90,000, F up to £120,000 and G over £120,000. These figures are based on the estimated average property price in Wales of £60,000. In Scotland band A will cover properties

worth up to £27,000; B up to £35,000; C up to £45,000; D up to £58,000; E up to £80,000; F up to £106,000 and G over £106,000. The average on which the figures are based is £53,000.

The banding system means that the amount of council tax payable will vary according to the value of the property but only within a limited range. People in the lowest band of property will pay about two thirds of those in a property in the middle band in that area; those in the highest band will pay about two thirds more than those in the middle band. Overall a household in the top band will pay about two and half times as much of one in the lowest band. The decision on which band a property should occupy will be supervised by the Inland Revenue's valuation office.

The document says that this will be a "substantial exercise". It adds: "It will be essential for it to be carried out quickly and with the assurance for householders that their property has been fairly assigned to the correct band."

According to Michael Heseltine,

the environment secretary, there will be no need for precise valuations of every house or flat, nor will there be a need for regular or frequent revaluations of properties under the banding system. Home improvements will not automatically mean a change of band; alterations might only be taken into account when the property changed hands.

Explaining why it rejected a return to rental values (ie, the rates) as the basis for valuation, the document identifies several disadvantages to such an approach. It says that differences in rents between the top and bottom of the market are wider than could be justified as the basis for the new tax. It also says that direct evidence of rental values for different types of properties is limited because the private rented sector is so small, only 2 to 3 per cent, of the housing stock.

A further drawback is that property owners and tenants might not readily accept the judgment of the valuation office and clog the system with appeals.

Reverting to the existing rating register, now nearly 20 years old, would introduce "gross distortions" into the tax base and involve "severe inequity" for local taxpayers. A rating revaluation would be necessary.

Each year the government will announce for each band the amount of council tax necessary for a council to provide a reasonable level of service. In England it estimates that in the current year if councils spent in line with the Whitehall targets they would have to charge a household of two or more people living in a house worth more than £160,000 (the top band) no more than £668. If the household was in the lowest band the bill would be no more than £267.

In Scotland the charges for a two-person household would vary from £180 a year to £440 a year depending on its band; for a one-person home the range would be £130 to £330. In Wales the equivalent figures are between £109 and £272 for a two-person

home and £81 and £204 for a one-person property.

The government intends that the council tax payable will relate to how much councils spend. If a council spends above the Whitehall target the burden will be shared equally across all seven bands of property.

This would prevent councils loading spending increases on the wealthier property owners. Mr Heseltine said: "Where councils spend more all households will have to pay more. The same percentage increase will apply to all household bills. Similarly the benefit of low spending will be passed through to all council tax payers."

Second-home owners will receive two discounts on their second property, meaning that they will pay half the bill.

The rebate scheme for people on low incomes will be retained; the government does not envisage any substantial changes.

Leading article, page 18

How the council tax will affect the country, area by area

Figures under each band show total bill to be paid by two or more people living in a house. They assume that each council spends the same as this year, less a 40 per cent reduction in the cost of collecting the poll tax. One-adult households will pay 25% less than the amount shown

* 1991-92 community charge for two adults before reduction scheme or rebates

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All-purpose authorities will replace two tiers

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE most wide-ranging reform of local government for almost two decades was signalled yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary.

A consultation paper on the future of local government in England proposes sweeping away the existing two tiers of county and district councils and creating a single tier of all-purpose authorities.

The document says the first new council should come into existence on April 1, 1994, and indicates that artificial creations like Avon, Cleveland and Humberside will be among the first to be abolished. The changes will not affect London or the metropolitan areas of England. In

the new all purpose authorities running everything from schools to refuse collection. In some other counties will assume all the functions of the districts. Mergers between existing districts may be sanctioned although the commission will have the power to recommend the creation of wholly new local government areas.

"The government feel it right to begin the process of change towards unitary authorities to achieve more efficient and more accountable local government that will also reflect local people's own sense of identity with the community in which they live," the document says.

The report says that some of the local authorities created in 1974 at the time of the last major reorganisation of local government "are still not wholly accepted by all the local communities which they serve." The document says that in other areas local people are often unaware of which tier of local government is responsible for expenditure and this confusion clouds accountability.

"Changing the structure of local government will not in itself solve all the problems. But in the main it is desirable that people can identify one authority which secures services in their area," it says.

With more services being contracted out to the private sector as councils become monitors of standards rather than providers of services, there was no longer any need for councils to be big enough to provide services themselves.

In areas where counties were retained as the single tier or larger districts emerged, parish councils could be given a bigger role as representatives of local communities.

The government's proposals were welcomed by Roy Thomson, chairman of the Conservative controlled Association of District Councils who said that he could that in some areas both tiers will survive the changes.

The new commission, which will replace the boundary commission, will work its way around the country tackling several areas simultaneously. In some areas the existing district councils will become

Heseltine move may mean death of hated authorities

By RAY CLANCY

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, last night paved the way for the biggest restructuring of local government for almost two decades: a move that is expected to result in the demise of some of the most hated artificially created authorities such as Humberside, Cleveland and Avon.

The Boundary Commission for England has already proposed the abolition of Humberside, which has always been disliked by people living in the county since it was created in 1974. People in Humberside still talk of living in the East Riding of Yorkshire, those in Avon say they are rightly in Somerset, and in Cleveland they talk about being a mismatch of North Yorkshire and Durham.

This local feeling is just one of the issues the newly appointed local government commission will have to address. It had been thought that local referendums would be carried out, but last week Robert Key, junior environment minister, ruled out that option, although nobody has yet indicated how feelings will be monitored.

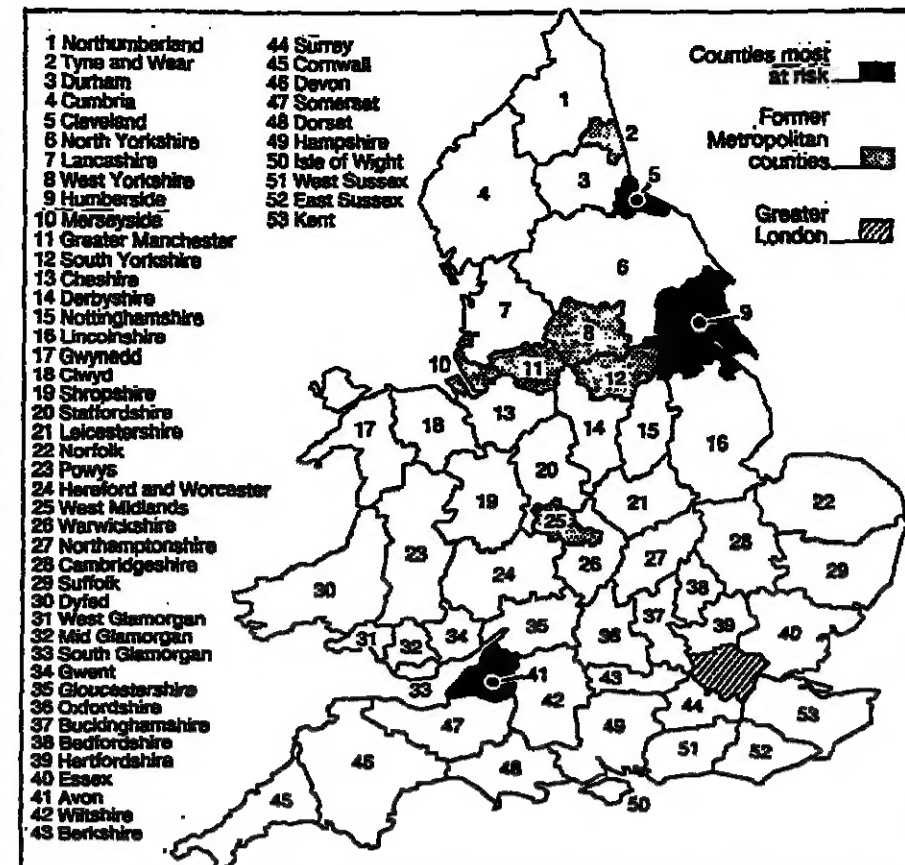
Mr Heseltine has long been a supporter of single-tier local government. He will, however, be anxious to avoid the scrapiness and argument that have characterised previous

local government reforms and to steer away from the hotchpotch system that existed before 1974. His plans have already sent a shudder through those involved in previous reorganisations. Experts fear that the disruption and cost of change might outweigh the benefits.

The foundations of local government in England and Wales were laid by the creation of counties in 1888 and districts in 1894. Apart from the grant of charters to boroughs, there were few changes before 1965. Until then, there was a multi-tier system with 48 county councils and 79 county boroughs in England.

The London area was divided between Middlesex and London County Council, below which there were 28 metropolitan boroughs and the City of London. Outside the capital, there were 285 municipal boroughs, 491 urban districts and 415 rural districts. Wales had a further 12 counties, four county boroughs, 73 urban districts and 59 rural districts.

It was widely regarded as a mess. The first step towards reform came in 1965, when changes were introduced in London. The Greater London Council was created, with 32 boroughs. The GLC took over the areas of the county council and Middlesex, plus parts of



counties and districts. From 1974, England was covered by 39 county councils, 296 district councils, six metropolitan councils and the GLC.

Three new administrative areas were created in Cleveland, Humberside and Avon, which immediately provoked criticism because they were not based on the historic shires. Several small counties were amalgamated with their neighbours and there was a wholesale amalgamation of districts.

However, the metropolitan counties created in 1974 had comparatively few functions. Education and social services, the big spenders, were given to the districts. Many came to believe that the metropolitan counties had too little to do. They were seen as extravagant, irritating and irrelevant nests of radical socialism and were abolished with the GLC in 1986.

Tyne and Wear, Merseyside, West Midlands, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and the GLC ceased to exist, with their functions taken over by the metropolitan districts outside London and the borough councils in London, effectively creating single-tier local government in those areas. It prompted a future Local Government in London is still haunted by the demise of the GLC, with frequent calls for its return.



Heseltine speaking in the Commons yesterday

Wales and Scotland separate consultation papers on restructuring will be issued within the next two months.

In England the government proposes the creation of a new Local Government Commission to oversee the transition. It would have a duty to consult local people about the changes. Ministers have, however, abandoned plans to hold local referendums on the future shape of the new councils.

The document makes it clear that there will be no wholesale abolition of either district or county councils and that in some areas both tiers will survive the changes.

The new commission, which will replace the boundary commission, will work its way around the country tackling several areas simultaneously.

In some areas the existing district councils will become

Sigh of relief in shaken bastion

THE death of the poll tax was being celebrated last night by Conservatives in the Berkshire Tory borough which set one of the highest poll taxes in Britain last year.

The ruling Conservative group on Windsor and Maidenhead council has been campaigning against the community charge since its introduction shattered the peace and led to the council being accused of profligacy.

Tories in this corner of the South-East are still traumatised by the experience of going to a stroke from having the lowest rates in the county to levying its highest poll tax.

For them, the community charge was the catalyst that turned life-long Conservative voters into anti-poll tax activists and led to the worst outbreak of political violence the borough had known. Five hundred demonstrators stormed the council headquarters and fought with police in a tree-lined street in Maidenhead last March, halting a council meeting called to set a poll tax of £449.

What hurt loyal Conservatives most was that the council had a record of careful financial management. Rates had not been increased in the 12 years leading up to the introduction of the poll tax. Overnight, changes in the new system used to distribute government grant to councils turned the borough into one of the most expensive places to live outside London.

Although this year's poll tax is £287 (£427 before the Chancellor of the Exchequer's £140 reduction) it is still £96 a head higher than neighbouring Labour-controlled Slough. Yesterday's announcement was greeted with relief by Bill

Douglas Broom finds out the reaction in one council that hated the poll tax

Cooley, the leader of the council, who farms near Eton College on the banks of the Thames and who has been a Tory councillor for 25 years. "We are glad to see the back of it. It should have been done before now," he said.

All 58 seats on the council come up for re-election on May 2 and the Tories are defending 42 of them. Mr Cooley said the poll tax had seriously harmed his party's prospects. "No one is counting their chickens this time," he said. "We should win but the community charge has done us no good at all."

Olive Dancer is one of those who will not be voting Conservative because of the poll tax. A life-long Tory voter, she joined the Maidenhead anti-poll tax group last year. "For so many people here, the poll tax was the last straw. We came to see that we were being governed by what, after 12 years in power, had become a virtual dictatorship."

"The strength of feeling is very strong. The unfairness of the poll tax and the fact that it could be retroacted through just incensed people who had voted Tory all their lives. I think the Tories will be kicked out of the council here and in the general election."

The new council tax may benefit fewer people in Windsor and Maidenhead than the government might like. According to the consultation paper issued yesterday, 19 per cent of homes in the borough come into the top tax bracket.

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Gould dismisses offspring of poll tax and political panic

New tax 'still favours rich'

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

GOVERNMENT plans to introduce a council tax were dismissed by the Labour party yesterday for including many of the "hated" features of the community charge. Bryan Gould, shadow environment secretary, told MPs that the untried tax still bore no relationship to ability to pay and favoured the rich. It was the offspring of a "disreputable union between the poll tax and political panic".

He said that the government had failed to learn the lessons of the poll tax by scrapping it immediately. He said, however, that Labour was ready to accept the government's offer of consultation on the structure of local government.

Mr Gould said that it was remarkable that the country had still not had a single word of apology for the billions of pounds that had been wasted and the misery caused to millions of people. "The secretary of state's statement is an admission that a disastrous mistake has been made."

The party that brought the country the head tax had now produced a "stand-on-your-head tax". "But whether heads or tails, the people will be the losers."

The government appeared to be offering genuine con-

sultation in contrast to the gimmickry of the poll tax replacement. "Provided we are satisfied there will be no gerrymandering, appointments to the commission will be free from political bias and no attempts will be made to undermine local government, we intend to make a positive response to the government's proposals", Mr Gould said.

The lessons of the poll tax had not been learnt. The government was not so much flying the poll tax nest as concealing the product of a disreputable union between the poll tax and political panic, a mongrel tax that inherited the worst features of both parents.

The public would want to know whether the Heseltine proposals were as fast, fair and simple as the fair rates scheme put forward by Labour. Every opinion poll showed the Labour formula twice as popular as any other scheme. The Heseltine plan was a guarantee that with a Tory government in power the poll tax would stay until at least 1993.

"Why should people have to put up with all the unfairness and unworkability of the poll tax and a local tax which, according to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, is £140 higher than it need be for at least two or three years?"

The new tax should not have been constructed so that the rich were protected from paying their fair share. "Do they not realise that every pound the rich do not pay will be added to someone else's bill, the bills of precisely the same people who are especially hard hit by the poll tax? Why is it that the element of the head tax which remains

at one address, but lives in another and perhaps higher valued property?"

He reminded MPs that Chris Patten, Conservative party chairman, had described similar schemes to the one now being put forward as a "rotweiler's breakfast". Mr Major had said in the past that the more the government considered the idea of single person discount the more it was convinced that the discount helped significantly the better off.

Alma Beith, Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said that the government had produced not the "son of poll tax" but the "son of rates", preserving many of the faults of the rating system and not being based on ability to pay. A relatively low-earning couple would pay the same as the four-earner family next door. Why had Michael Heseltine tilted the scheme to ensure that the very rich paid very little more than those on low incomes?

John Fraser (Norwood, Lab) said that there would be vast variations between areas because of the multiplier effect that would mean that 1 per cent on the council's spending would mean 6 per cent on tax. Nigel Lawson, former chancellor, said: "There will be widespread relief that the government has had the courage and common sense to

consign poll tax to oblivion and has come to a firm decision on the nature of its replacement".

David Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab) and several other Labour MPs said that Mr Heseltine should have introduced a bill at once to abolish poll tax.

John Cartwright (Woolwich, Ind SD) said banding involved an element of rough justice. Mr Heseltine replied that the difference between bands would mean that most people would not take advantage of appeals procedure against banding.

Martin Branden-Bravo (Nottingham South, C) got an assurance that adding central heating or double glazing to a home would not mean its moving from one band to another.

David Blunkett, Labour local government spokesman, asked about the chip-shop factor that would mean that a house between a disco and a chip shop would be in the same band as a similar one overlooking the park. Labour's proposals would mean a charge of £333 for an average two-person household which under the Conservative scheme would be £400. Mr Heseltine said that the appeals procedure would take care of the chip shop factor.

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Major avoids Owen poser

John Major sidestepped a Commons question yesterday about giving a government job to Dr David Owen, leader of the former SDP. Martyn Jones, Labour MP for Chwyd South West, sought assurance that Mr Major, despite his desperate need to improve his electoral chances, was not extending his policy on safe havens to other small minorities such as Dr Owen.

Mr Major replied to laughter: "I am at the moment fully occupied in dealing with safe havens in Iraq".

Car security talks planned

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, is to have talks on car security next week with the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the Association of British Insurers. Earl Ferrers, minister of state, said in a Lords written reply. The next week Mr Baker is to have talks with manufacturing companies. The government is seeking to reduce theft of and from cars.

School policy defended

Kenneth Clarke, education secretary, rejected as "over the top" criticism of grant maintained schools by the Roman Catholic church. He said during Commons questions that some "pretty silly things" had been said during local campaigning on whether a school should become grant maintained. The policy was a huge success where adopted and an enlightened reform.

Appeal to British Coal

The Commons Welsh affairs committee called on British Coal to provide decent new houses for villagers in Wales forced from their homes by open-cast mining. The £500,000 spent annually by British Coal on local benefits was too little when the company's annual profit in south Wales was £20 million, the committee's report said.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Atomic Weapons Establishment bill, remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Debates on unemployment and on sport and active recreation.

Nato 'has to stay as it is'

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

TOM King, the defence secretary, rejected yesterday the idea that Czechoslovakia, Hungary and other eastern European nations might become members of Nato.

He told the "Future of Europe" conference of the British Atlantic Group of Young Politicians in London: "I do not think that is a sensible proposition at this time. Nato should be maintained as it is." The priorities for countries "emerging from communism" should be the development of economic ties with Western Europe.

Mr King said that Nato should remain as the main component of European security, adding that the essential elements included the continued stationing of American troops in Europe, the development of the "European pillar", with greater contributions to the alliance from important European nations, and a unified command structure.

On the Conventional Forces in Europe agreement, the defence secretary complained of the Soviet transfer of troops and equipment to its navy to evade the treaty stipulations.

At the same conference, Martin O'Neill, Labour's defence spokesman, said that it was debauched Atlanticism for America always to take the lead in Nato and that European efforts must be built up.

Kinnoek fights for the family vote

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARRIED couples with two children on average earnings of £15,000 a year will not face higher taxes if Labour wins power at the next election, its leaders promised yesterday as they sought to wrest from the Conservatives the mantle of the party of the family.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, intensified his efforts to rid his party of its high-tax image by promising that the overwhelming majority of people would not pay higher taxes under his premiership.

His pledge was supported by Margaret Beckett, the shadow chief secretary, who earlier had highlighted the increase in the tax burden under the Tories. She said that the burden of direct and indirect taxes on a married couple with two children on average earnings had risen from 35.2 per cent of income in 1978-9 to 36.6 per cent in 1989-90.

The comments came at the launch in London of an Opposition campaign document, *Labour, Family Prosperity*, which showed how ordinary families living in the capital had suffered under Tory rule and which promised that Labour would bring higher benefits and better education, training, social services and child care.

Despite those hints of higher spending, the Labour leaders did not go beyond their present commitments to restore the value of child benefit to its 1987 level —



Meacher announced a child benefit concession of £9.55 at current rates — and to increase pensions for single people by £5 a week and for couples by £8 a week. They said that the total bill of about £3.25 billion would be met by higher taxes on the better off and by removing the ceiling on national insurance contributions.

Michael Meacher, Labour's social security spokesman, did announce a concession on child benefit, however. Labour would ensure that families living on means-tested benefits did not miss future child benefit increases through corresponding reductions in their income support payments. That brought the Opposition into line with changes announced by the government in the Budget which take effect in October.

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Major avoids Owen poser

John Major sidestepped a Commons question yesterday about giving a government job to Dr David Owen, leader of the former SDP. Mr Owen, a Labour MP for South West, sought assurance that Mr Major, despite his desperate need to improve his electoral chances, was not excluding his policy on safe havens for other small minorities such as Dr Owen.

Car security talks planned

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, is to have talks on car security next week with the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the Association of British Insurers. Earl Ferrers, minister of state, said in a Lords written reply. The next day Mr Baker is to have talks with manufacturing companies. The government is seeking to reduce theft and from cars.

School policy defended

Kenneth Clarke, education secretary, rejected "over the top" criticism of grant maintained schools by the Roman Catholic Church. He said during Commons questions that some "pretty silly things" had been said during local campaigning on whether a school should become grant maintained. The policy was a long process where adopted an enlightened reform.

Appeal to British Coal

The Commons Welsh Affairs Committee called on British Coal to provide decent new houses for villagers in Wales forced from their homes by open cast mining. The committee said that the Welsh Coalfield Development Corporation had been too little use to the communities in the south Wales valleys.

Parliament today

Members of the Commons will debate the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's report on the situation in the Falkland Islands.

Jack fights for family vote



Jack, who has been a member of the Commons for many years, is fighting for his family vote. He is a member of the Commons and has been a member of the Commons for many years.

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Baker cuts delays for drink-drive hearings

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MOST people accused of drink-driving will appear in court within three weeks of being arrested under a new agreement reached between police, prosecutors and magistrates, it emerged yesterday.

Under the agreement, police will be obliged to charge drivers who fail an evidential breath test immediately and, in most cases, to bail them to appear at court seven days later. In more complicated cases, the deadline for the first court appearance will be three weeks from the date of arrest.

While some progress has been made over the past 18 months to reduce prosecution delays in drink-driving cases, it can still take up to four months for alleged offenders to be tried. Most of the delays stem from the time it takes for summonses to be issued and for blood and urine samples to be processed by forensic scientists.

Announcing the new arrangements, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said: "These procedures should ensure that most cases take no longer than 21 days from offence to the defendant's first court appearance at which, we anticipate, a substantial number of cases will be completed. Where an evidential breath test is in excess of the legal limit and there is no subsequent blood or urine test, the person should be charged immediately."

Defendants with a record of drink-driving offences would be expected to be brought before magistrates "within days" so that courts could consider imposing a driving ban during the bail period.

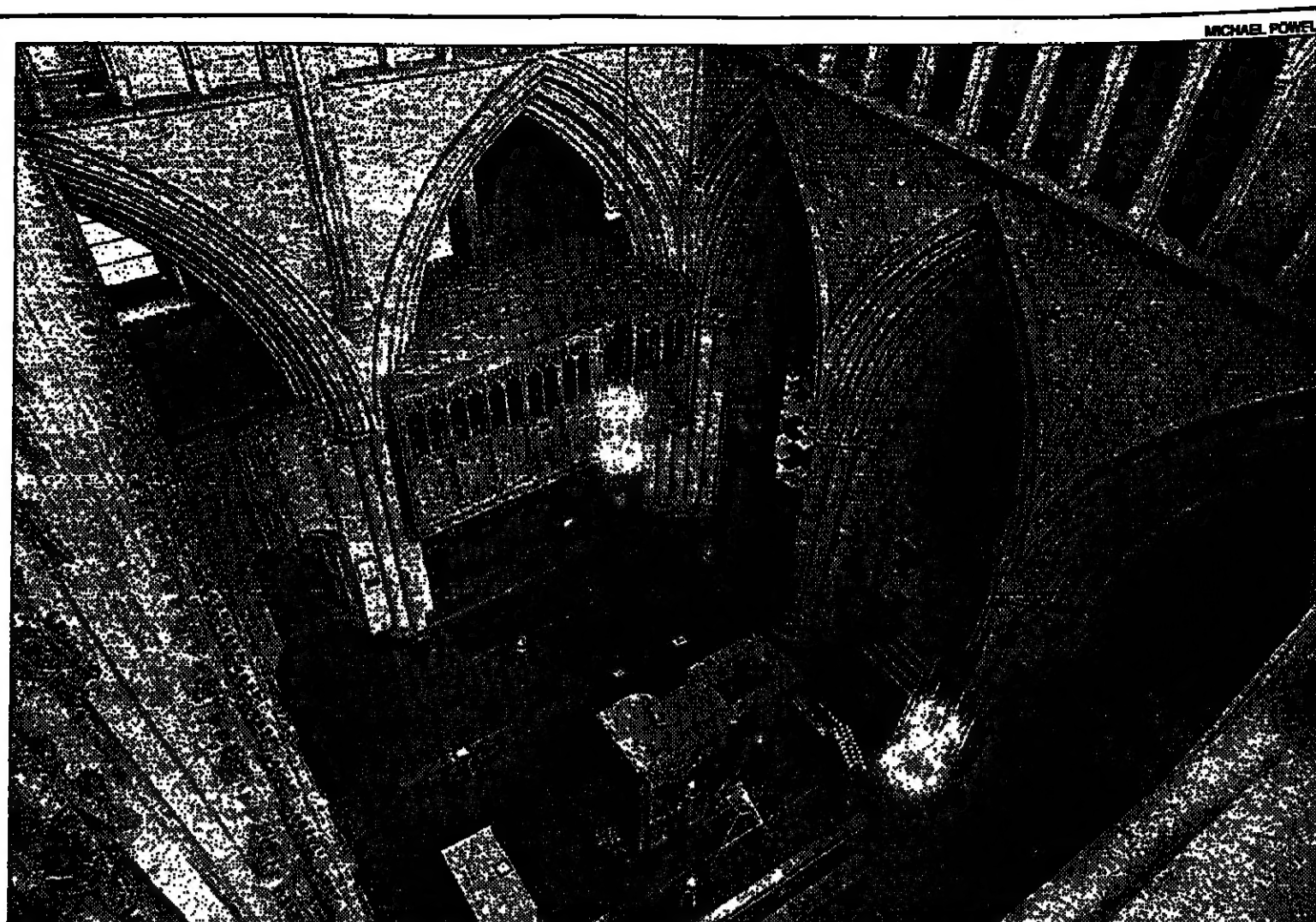
The new procedures would be reviewed in 12 months' time. Lawyers welcomed the move on the basis that quicker justice meant better justice. Diane Burleigh, legal adviser to the Law Society, said: "In most areas police do charge on the spot if a driver has decisively failed an intoximeter test. But serious delays can and do occur in more complicated cases."

She said it could take over a month for the results of blood or urine samples to come back from forensic laboratories and sometimes another three months for summonses to be issued by court officials.

Alcohol Concern welcomed the agreement, saying that it would increase public safety and increase the deterrent impact of the drink-driving laws. A spokesman said: "If the prosecution process is accelerated there is less chance of drink-drivers committing another offence while they are on bail. Reducing court delays also increases the deterrent effect of stiff penalties for drink-driving."

The charity said dramatic improvements had been made over the past two years in speeding up the prosecution of drink-drivers, but that further progress was needed. "All we need now is for the government to do what the public has been pressing it to do for ages and introduce random breath-testing," the spokesman added.

Some of the delays are known to be caused by offenders who deliberately invent excuses for not appearing in court in order to keep their licences for longer.



Piece work: Paul Harrison, a sculpture conservator, begins dismantling the shrine in St Alban's cathedral in preparation for its restoration

Restorers embark on task of saintly patience

WORK began this week on the dismantling and restoration of England's oldest and greatest Christian shrine, that of St Alban the Martyr, which stands in the heart of the cathedral that bears his name.

Alban was executed by the Romans in about 304 and when the emperor Constantine embraced Christianity a church was built as a gesture of atonement over the spot where he was buried. The church became a place of pilgrimage and prayer, and the Venerable Bede commented on the succession of

miracles associated with it.

In 793 the Saxon king Offa of Mercia founded a Benedictine monastery on the site and in 1077 Paul de Caen, the first Norman abbot, began the building of what was to become the premier abbey of medieval England, using Roman bricks from the ruined city of Verulamium.

The saint's bones were exhumed and placed in a chest encrusted with gold, silver and precious stones on top of the shrine, which was constructed of Purbeck stone and faced with carved and painted marble. There it was guarded night and day by monks until the dissolution of the monasteries.

In December 1539, Henry VIII's vandals broke into the abbey, seized the treasure and scattered Alban's bones, which have never been

John Young reports on the restoration of England's oldest Christian shrine, that of St Alban the Martyr

found, and destroyed the shrine. In 1872, hundreds of fragments were rediscovered and pieced together. Substantial parts were missing, however, and Victorian techniques and materials have failed the test of time. Although still beautiful, it has a forlorn appearance and is threatened with collapse.

Over the next few months it will be taken apart and rebuilt by Harrison Hill, a firm of stone restorers, of Little Oakley, Northampton-

shire. Each fragment will be cleaned and repaired, preserving as much as possible of the original paintwork.

The work will be facilitated by a photogrammetric survey of the details of the shrine's construction, the results of which have been recorded on computer at the City University. Some fragments discovered since 1872 will be placed in position and missing pieces will be replaced by light modern materials identical in appearance to the carved marble.

Temporary removal of the shrine will allow the site to be excavated under the supervision of Professor Martin Biddle, archaeological consultant to the cathedral. "We've no idea what we may find," he said, "but it will be a very exciting exercise."

The £150,000 for the work has been raised in three months by an appeal coordinated by Sir Eric Cheadle, former deputy managing director of the International Thomson Organisation. A substantial donation has been received from Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, among others. The Very Rev Peter Moore, Dean of St Alban's, in Hertfordshire, said yesterday that the appeal had been enthusiastically supported by Roman Catholics who hold a weekly mass in the Lady Chapel.

Barring unforeseen difficulties, the shrine will be restored in time for the celebration in 1993 of the 1,200th anniversary of Offa's foundation, a fitting tribute to England's first saint and martyr.

Shrine needed for St Andrew's devotees

By KERRY GILL

THE Roman Catholic Church hopes to establish a national shrine to St Andrew, patron saint of Scotland, to increase veneration of the saint and stop the increasing secularisation that his cross has suffered since the Reformation.

The shrine would be based in St Mary's cathedral, Edinburgh, where his

relics are displayed at St Andrew's altar, a place of pilgrimage. Mgr Patrick Grady, administrator of the cathedral, said a national shrine would help a revival of devotion to the saint and could be ecumenically valuable.

A formal request has been made to the Scottish Catholic bishops for a national shrine and nation-wide consultations are to be sought with the Catholic community. When Mgr

Gordon Gray was made a cardinal in 1969, the late Pope Paul VI gave him what is thought to be a piece of St Andrew's skull. This and the shoulder blade are at St Mary's cathedral.

When Pope John Paul II visited Scotland in 1982, he prayed with Cardinal Gray at the altar to St Andrew. Mgr Grady said: "Subsequently, the relics of St Andrew have been the object of increasing veneration."

Obligatory jollity the price of BA's free flight

From JOE JOSEPH IN MILAN

YOU could tell what sort of a day British Airways' free flight offer was going to be when you arrived at Heathrow yesterday morning and found BA staff wearing white sashes and large "Up And Away Day" badges that made them look like winners in an unusual agricultural show.

St George's day colour was provided by out-of-work actors dressed up like those medieval court jesters who serve Japanese tourists at Tudor chicken dinner evenings in London.

Getting on a free flight arouses mixed emotions, especially to those who know how precarious in-flight service can be even when they have paid full whack for their seats. Our worst fears were met when BA564 to Milan, due to leave at 7.45am, was held up for two hours while technicians fixed the computer. Not an auspicious start for a day designed to renew our confidence in flying.

The cabin staff made a valiant effort to make amends. As we boarded the flight Louise Illingworth, a stewardess, greeted us wearing a pig's nose and ears, plucked from a dressing-up box handed out to staff yesterday. Andy Webb, the steward, wore hairy monster's feet and a flashing bow tie. Cliff Richard sang *Congratulations* over the speakers and we read our leaflet *Fly With Confidence: A senior British Airways pilot answers a few of the more common questions people ask about flying*.

The cabin crew ran competitions, such as recognising odd languages announcing the Boeing safety drill. Either our flight was very dim or we were all too scared that the CD prizes were of Cliff singing *Congratulations*.

Richard Dukoff-Gordon, the captain, explained how planes had "to wait in a sort of queue to take off, like joining

the M25, so we don't all get bunched up". He spoke in a slow, clear Jackanory pace, the verbal equivalent of unjoined-up writing. He seemed to assume that people who had won a free flight had not only never flown before, but may not have been further than their local Tesco's.

I asked my neighbour, Lionel Croft, if he was excited about flying. "I'm very excited to be flying today, just as I was when I flew yesterday, the day before yesterday and as I will be when I fly tomorrow," Mr Croft, a Toronto businessman involved in packaging, had paid full price for his Club Class ticket. "But I understand I get a refund," he said.

The captain had more success with Betty Knight from Leicestershire, a frequent but still nervous flying grandmother, who sat behind Captain Dukoff-Gordon during take-off. Nervous Mrs Knight was too polite to mention how she felt about the plane's computer being taken apart and reassembled like a broken TV set, but it was clearly crossing her mind that she does not rely on her TV set to keep her aloft at 30,000ft. "I'm frightened to fly. That's why they brought me in here. They told me it would cure my fear. It's a marvellous experience." She arrived in Milan relaxed and happy and raring for Venice.

In the departure lounge at Milan, the Italians seemed bemused by the whole caper. "They don't understand why we are giving away free tickets," Brega Giacomo, a BA man in Milan, said. Perhaps the Italians were just thrown by BA's fancy dress. How would you react if you were an elegant Italian minding your own shoulder pads and another grinning Italian wearing a bearskin and a flashing bow tie came and gave you a pair of free tickets to London?



Louise Illingworth: shows that pigs can fly

A boost for publicity but will it work?

FEAR of flying may evaporate with a free ticket, but it will be months before it becomes clear whether British Airways' 50,000-seat give-away has had any lasting effect on the company's battle to persuade people to take off with them (Melinda Wittstock writes).

BA, which has been suffering from a 30 per cent slump in seat sales as the recession and fears of terrorism inspired by the Gulf war kept passengers away, has spent more than £16 million on the promotion. Newspapers in 62 countries carried advertisements in 27 different languages, all aimed at wooing people back to the skies, preferably with BA. It even painted advertisements on 27 of its aircraft. Other offers linked to yesterday's promo-

tion will bring the total spent by the airline on advertising and seat discounts this year to £50 million.

But will it work? Bill Burchell, a BA spokesman, said: "We expect to reach our pre-war booking levels by this September or October." It will never be clear, however, how much the give-away will have to do with what many in the industry see as an inevitable rise in bookings after the end of the Gulf war and some signs that the recession might be coming to an end.

David Kershaw, joint managing director of Saatchi & Saatchi's London agency, who co-ordinated the advertising campaign, said: "What is certain is that it has created enormous publicity and goodwill."

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TIMESAVER Account (£1 - £249)	6.00	4.50
(£250 - £999)	7.33	5.50
(£1,000 plus)	8.67	6.50
S.A.Y.E. (7 year equivalent return)	11.49**	8.62
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MAXIMISER Option 1 (Income)	10.75	8.06
	10.25	7.69
MAXIMISER Option 3 (Income)	11.45	8.59
	10.90	8.18
MAXIMISER Option 6 (Income)	12.50	9.38
	11.85	8.89
MAXIMISER Tax Plan Account	11.45	8.59
MAXIMISER High Return TESSA†	14.00	-
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MAXIMISER Income Account*		
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£5,000 plus	10.90	8.18
MAXIMISER Growth Account*		
£5,000 plus	11.45	8.59
MAXIMISER Top Rate Account*		
(Income)	11.95	8.96
	11.35	8.51
MAXIMISER Two Year Bond*		
(Income)	13.00	9.75
	12.30	9.23
MAXIMISER Elite I*	11.45	8.59
Elite II*	11.45	8.59
Elite III*	11.45	8.59
Elite IV*	13.00	9.75
Elite V* £5,000 - £24,999	13.00	9.75
£25,000 plus	13.33	10.00
Elite VI* £5,000 - £24,999	13.00	9.75
£25,000 plus	13.33	10.00
Premium Access (Issue 1)††	8.85	6.64
(Issue 2)††	9.00	6.75
Real Gold Account* (including full bonus)	9.87	7.40
Extra Interest††	8.85	6.64
Extra Income*	8.85	6.64
High Income*	10.25	7.69
High Interest*	10.75	8.06
Acorn/Classmate*	6.00	4.50
Holiday Saver (including full bonus)*	7.33	5.50

Interest rates are variable. *Accounts no longer available. **Gross equivalent rate. †Includes 1% gross p.a. bonus. ††Effective from 25th May 1991. Net equivalent rates are based on a gross rate of 25%. All interest rates have been reduced. For details of other accounts please contact your local branch of the Society. Interest will be payable net of the basic rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or subject to the required registration, gross. The actual net amount receivable by an investor who has not registered for gross interest will depend upon the basic rate of income tax in force at the time interest is credited.



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MAXIMISER Independent Access	11.00
MAXIMISER Independent Accumulator†	12.90
MAXIMISER Independent Bond (Issue II)*	
£5,000 - £24,999	13.00
£25,000 plus	13.33

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De Kl for t und reform

By DAVID WATTS
AND GAVIN

SOUTH Africa needs removal of the remaining obstacles to trade to help it become a "vibrant economy", according to President de Klerk, in London on a mission to attract investment.

"Economic development goes hand-in-hand with a constitutional development. Any new government will have high expectations and constitutional reform must be underpinned by a vibrant economy," he said. The country needed a steady growth rate of 6 per cent to keep pace with

Antarctic policy switch

Madrid — Japan said yesterday that it now favours an indefinite ban on mining in Antarctica. In the past Tokyo has supported a convention to regulate mineral activities (Alexander Smith writes).

The reversal follows a similar announcement by the United States last week and further polarizes the position between Britain and the United States. They favour a finite period prohibition on mining, and Japan favours a strict legal regime regulating mineral activities. Japan emphasised the need for consensus at a meeting of 39 Antarctic nations.

Law relaxed

Bangkok — The martial law imposed in Thailand after the military coup on February 23 will be lifted early next month, Anand Panyarachun, prime minister, told reporters. The coup toppled the government of Major-General Chuan Choonhavan, who was accused of corruption. (AP)

Shuttle delay

Cape Canaveral — NASA postponed the launch of the shuttle Discovery, scheduled for today, because of a faulty transducer in an engine. The mission by seven astronauts, and the first classified launch for the Pentagon, is part of the strategic defence initiative programme. (AFP)

Radio control

Melbourne — About 100 fish penguins off the Australian coast will be fitted with "beacons" to try to discover why hundreds of them starve to death every year. Biologists at Phillip Island, about 60 miles from Melbourne, said periodic waves of starvation leave hundreds of birds washed up on shore. (Reuters)

God and fail black

By G

A FEW weeks ago Moses Khumalo told *The Times* that he trusted in God and to a lesser degree, in police protection and a personal firearm to keep him alive. Last weekend that trinity failed to save him from assassins who lured him into an ambush and blasted his car with rifles, pistols and hand grenades. His body was left sprawling from the car, his gun clenched in his right hand.

As the mayor of the Diepsloot district of Soweto, Khumalo, aged 63, knew he was a marked man. Six black town councillors were murdered last year after informal civil associations allied to the African National Congress launched a campaign to destroy black local authorities that they regarded as anachronisms of apartheid.

Almost half the country's black councillors have resigned, rendering scores of townships ungovernable, and those who remain are subject to public "shunning", marches on their homes, boycotts of their businesses, and death threats.

The irony is that everybody, including the government and the councils, agrees that new multiracial administrations are required, and models are



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De Klerk calls for trade to underpin reform plans

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
AND GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa needs the removal of the remaining obstacles to trade to help build a "vibrant economy" to underpin change, according to President de Klerk, in London on a mission in search of investment.

"Economic development goes hand-in-hand with constitutional development... Any new government will face high expectations and expectations are high... constitutional reform must be underpinned by a vibrant economy," he said. The country needed a steady growth rate of 6 per cent to keep pace with its

population growth, to build the material and social infrastructure required by reform.

But Mr de Klerk was not revealing whether his meetings with British bankers and financiers had met with success, though he said that the removal of restrictions on trading in Krugersands and steel had helped to increase trade. In an oblique admission that South Africa was not yet seen as a worthwhile investment target in these recessionary times, he admitted that what his country needed most now was confidence.

"We don't ask for handouts; we don't ask for donations," he said. "We ask that all impediments be removed and then we have no doubt we will get a flow of private sector investment... private companies are ready, willing and able to invest in South Africa." He confirmed that he had invited the prime minister to South Africa and that Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, would also shortly be visiting.

Mr de Klerk said that a bill would soon be published setting up a standing commission on violence, headed by a sitting or retired judge. The commission would gather evidence and take complaints on violence. The national summit which he has called for May 24 and 25 would confirm that it was the responsibility of all leaders in South Africa to bring the violence to an end.

Later, speaking to the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Mr de Klerk rejected an interim government, but said he was prepared to consider certain transitional arrangements. "The government of South Africa has no hidden agenda. It is not seeking to secure any form of white privilege by stealth in the future of South Africa. The concept of democracy the government is committed to achieving is the same concept as that understood in the Western world."

When Mr Hurd visits South Africa he will find a country in the throes of political mayhem, not unlike that in Northern Ireland. Violence in black townships claimed 3,700 lives last year - the corresponding figure in Northern Ireland was 76 - rival black leaders are either unable or unwilling to halt the carnage, and white extremists mutter darkly about armed rebellion.

With the closure of gold mines fueling economic woes, senior bankers warn that the country could become ungovernable within five years. Chris Stals, the governor of the Reserve Bank, told a recent conference that Pretoria's economic policy was to prepare for growth. "The question is, of course, will we survive the interim period?" he added.

Institute of directors, page 26

Antarctic policy switch

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The reversal follows a similar announcement by Germany last week and further polarizes the position taken by Britain and the United States. They favour a finite period of prohibition on mining, underpinned by a strict legal mechanism regulating minerals activities. Japan emphasised the need for consensus at the meeting of 39 Antarctic Treaty nations.

Law relaxed

Bangkok - The martial law imposed in Thailand after the military coup on February 23 will be lifted early next month, Anand Panyarachun, the prime minister, told reporters. The coup toppled the government of Major-General Chuan Leekpai, which the military junta accused of corruption. (AP)

Shuttle delayed

Cape Canaveral - NASA postponed the launch of the space shuttle Discovery, six hours before blast-off, because of a faulty transducer in an engine. The mission by seven astronauts, and the first unclassified launch for the Pentagon, is part of the strategic defence initiative programme. (AFP)

Radio control

Melbourne - About 100 fairy penguins off the Australian coast will be fitted with "beepers" to try to discover why hundreds of them starve to death every year. Biologists at Phillip Island, about 60 miles from Melbourne, said periodic waves of starvation leave hundreds of birds washed up on shore. (Reuters)

God and guns fail black mayor

By GAVIN BELL

A FEW weeks ago Moses Khumalo told *The Times* that he trusted in God and, to a lesser degree, in police protection and a personal firearm to keep him alive. Last weekend that trust failed to save him from assassins who hied him into an ambush and blasted his car with rifles, pistols and hand grenades. His body was left sprawling from the car, his gun clenched in his right hand.

As the mayor of the Diepsmeadow district of Soweto, Khumalo, aged 63, knew he was a marked man. Six black town councillors were murdered last year after informal civic associations allied to the African National Congress launched a campaign to destroy black local authorities that they regard as anachronisms of apartheid.

Almost half the country's black councillors have resigned, rendering scores of townships ungovernable, and those who remain are subject to public "shunning", marches on their homes, boycotts of their businesses, and death threats.

The irony is that everybody, including the government and the councils, agrees that new multiracial administrations are required, and models are under discussion, but the militants are not prepared to wait. Last year, a councillor in the Transvaal was killed by a hand grenade, one in KwaZulu shot himself in the head after his home was besieged by a mob, and another was burnt alive. While the civic associations distance themselves from the violence, anarchy prevails and councillors and municipal policemen are attacked daily.

Khumalo, a former schoolteacher, was acutely aware of the risks he faced in continuing to work from his office. Newspaper headlines pinned above his desk spelt them out: "Cape deputy mayor killed", "Black councils on verge of collapse".

The mayor said he stood for election in 1978 because the black authorities were an improvement on white township managers who evicted tenants who fell behind in rent. "I now strongly believe that our councils should be abolished, along with all other vestiges of apartheid, but until a new system is devised we should be allowed to continue to serve our communities. I am holding on because the people who elected me to improve their quality of life are still there."



In harmony: Mr de Klerk escorting Mrs Thatcher from his London hotel, where she visited him yesterday

Mandela follows in the president's footsteps

By DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

NELSON Mandela arrives in Britain today as President de Klerk leaves for Denmark but the deputy leader of the African National Congress (ANC) denies that he is trying to upstage the presidential visit. "It is pure coincidence," a spokesman at their London office said. Predictably, he will follow in Mr de

Klerk's footsteps by seeing the prime minister and Neil Kinnock, but less predictably he will also see his likeness unveiled at Madame Tussaud's. The main purpose of his trip, according to the ANC, is to see Oliver Tambo, the leader of the congress, who has lived in London since he had a stroke.

Taking advantage of his return from Japan, Mr Mandela will bring Mr Tambo

up to date on developments in South Africa and discuss the ANC national conference in June. Mr Tambo is expected to return to South Africa after medical treatment. Before he left Japan, Mr Mandela accused the security forces of conniving in the violence plaguing black townships and urged foreign governments to consult blacks before lifting sanctions.

Defence witness confirms alibi

From ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN JOHANNESBURG

A KEY defence witness testified yesterday that Winnie Mandela was doing social work with her when four youths were allegedly kidnapped and assaulted at Mrs Mandela's home in Soweto, outside Johannesburg.

Nora Moahloli, a school teacher, said she confirmed Mrs Mandela's alibi that she was hundreds of miles away in Brandfort when the four were allegedly attacked. "She was at my place," she said.

Mrs Mandela, wife of Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress deputy leader, and three co-defendants deny eight counts of kidnap and assault. Prosecutors say the defendants abducted four youths on December 29, 1988, and beat them at Mrs Mandela's house.

Mrs Mandela has testified she was in Brandfort with Mrs Moahloli on the evening of December 29, 1988 until new year's eve. She said she was doing social work in the town, where she was sent by the government for nine years for anti-apartheid activity.

Mugabe meets Pretoria official

From JAN RAATH
IN HARARE

PRESIDENT Mugabe of Zimbabwe has held his first known meeting with an official of the South African government since shortly after independence in 1980.

His discussions on Monday with Desmond Krogh, a senior adviser to the governor of the South African Reserve Bank, are seen as a demonstration by Mr Mugabe, previously Africa's bitterest opponent of apartheid, that he regards it as time to end the international isolation of South Africa, especially by the rest of Africa.

Dr Krogh yesterday said that the meeting, arranged at short notice, had been a private one and that he bore no message from either his bank or President de Klerk. But any doubts over the signals Mr Mugabe intended to transmit were dispelled by the treatment given to the meeting by the state press. *The Herald*, the main daily newspaper, carried on its front page a picture of a delighted Mr Mugabe, clasping the hand of the genial Africaner.

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IRAQ

Party police threaten security of safe haven

From Christopher Walker in Zakho

THE future of plans by the allies to bring Kurdish refugees from the mountains down to a safe haven in Iraq is being threatened by hundreds of armed Iraqi Baath party policemen who were yesterday still in the border town of Zakho.

A reconnaissance party of Royal Marines toured the deserted town yesterday and saw groups of armed police outnumbering the remaining Kurds in some areas. Frightened residents made repeated allegations of intimidation and looting since the tough-looking police were bussed into the town three days ago. Some said they had been forced to put back portraits of President Saddam Hussein on their walls.

At one corner tea shop, a Kurd pointed to the uniformed men looking on suspiciously and wrote the figure of 500 on the palm of his hand. "That is how many now. They are very bad men sent here by Saddam Hussein," he whispered.

Kurdish tribal leaders from the mountainside refugee centres yesterday failed to attend their first scheduled meeting here with senior American officers, apparently out of concern at the continuing Iraqi presence which the Americans have promised to end, but have so far not done so. "I do not like to be the bearers of bad news, but unfortunately the meeting did not take place," said Gordon Murdoch, information officer of the US disaster assistance reaction team. "The leaders had been due to fly down by helicopter so that they could report on the new camp and persuade their people to come down to it."

Because so many Kurds have fled from Zakho, the number of police on the ground feels greater than it would be when the town was its normal size. According to residents and American aid workers, the police were involved in a shooting incident late on Monday night.

Mr Murdoch, who has lived in a tent in northern Iraq since American forces drove across the border, said: "The presence of the police has had a somewhat chilling impact on the town. It is an item of concern which will be addressed this week. The Iraqis are undertaking a tactic of psychological warfare."

The police were smartly dressed in drab olive-green fatigues in contrast to the shabby camouflage kit of the

few Iraqi soldiers still in the area, who were much more friendly to Western troops and occasionally gave them the V-for-victory sign. "I know these are special forces sent from Baghdad in policemen's uniforms. I even recognised one of them," said Hamid Suliman, an unemployed Kurdish driver. "They are taking the numbers of our cars, watching our movements and making intelligence about us."

Mr Suliman and many other Kurds who approached our Land-Rover insisted that few of those who fled from Zakho to Turkey would return while the police remained. "No Kurdish people will come back from the mountains while these men remain in town. They have been sent to frighten us and remind us what will happen to us if the American and British soldiers go away," said Mr Suliman. "They have now begun stealing things from the houses left empty by the Kurds."

Ramsi Suleman, who spoke when he made sure no police were watching our small party, said: "They have been entering the empty houses at night taking televisions, videos and anything valuable. It is what they did in Kuwait City."

On Monday, US marines forced 30 Iraqi soldiers from a position overlooking the town where they have remained in a bunker with a heavy machine-gun, despite orders to go south. The Iraqi lieutenant-colonel in charge told the Americans: "I will be happy to leave, but I have not yet received any orders to do so."

A Kurdish customer at one of the few small shops now open in Zakho spoke out, although the police fingered their AK47 rifles at him from only a few yards away. "They ask us if we are Kurds. If we say yes, they ask us if we support Saddam," he said in broken English. "If we say 'no', they beat us. Please get them away."

On a nearby road, a large portrait of Saddam painted on a wall riddled with hundreds of bullet holes summed up the hostility felt towards the Iraqi president by most of the original 100,000 residents of Zakho. The unexplained presence of his party police, often Saddam lookalikes with moustaches, made it easy to understand why so many of the Kurds are reluctant to return, despite the horrific conditions in the mountains, where up to 1,000 refugees are dying every day.



Canvases comfort: Kurdish families sitting outside rows of tents at the Iranian Pol-e-Felzel refugee camp near the border with Iraq. Some camps have still not received tents

NORTHERN IRAQ

Artillery may go to border

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE bulk of 3 Commando Brigade will have arrived in northern Iraq by the end of the week to take part in Operation Haven. Although there is still no official announcement, 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, equipped with 105mm light guns, is expected to be sent to Iraq to provide firepower in case of interference by Iraqi troops.

A defence ministry source said: "The one thing you can expect on operations like this is the unexpected. So the general feeling is why be left without your integral artillery support. If it is there and not used so much the better, but at least it is there if required."

The plan is to send the whole of 40 and 45 Commando. The third manoeuvre group, 42 Commando, is being replaced by the 1st Amphibious Combat Group of the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps. The British-Dutch force is expected to come under the command of Major-General Robin Ross, who is Major-General Royal Marines Commando Forces.

Tom King, the defence secretary, held talks in Paris yesterday with Pierre Joxe, his French counterpart, on British and French contributions to the multinational Kurdish relief operation.

Saddam's men keep up pretence

Baghdad's secret police have nowhere to hide in the deserted Kurdish town of Dahuk, Adam Kellih reports. But their presence reinforces refugees' fears

THE secret police officers gave a surly glance upwards as two US Air Force F16s screamed past on a rooftop level sortie which was just another reminder to the Iraqis that American marines hold positions 25 miles away.

"They come to see the people," muttered one of the officers, named Amar. "Every one or two hours we see planes from America. They want to prove the power of the United States."

Beyond watching the skies, there is not much work these days for the secret police in Dahuk, a town 40 miles from the Turkish frontier that housed some 130,000 Kurds before the anti-government rebellion last month spiralled 90 per cent of the people away. The group of about 20 men basked in the sun outside their fortress-like headquarters, some in the dark green uniforms worn by Baathist party cadres, others in civilian clothes for their duties in the settlements at the foot of barren ranges that extend into Turkey.

The only active member was a solitary worker restoring a portrait of President Saddam Hussein which, like all in the town, had been destroyed during the ten-day occupation of the town by the insurgents. He splashed a final coat of lurid blue paint on to a concrete plinth, on which was to be attached a massive banner

of Saddam. Other newly completed portraits lay stacked in the background. "There are so many people here. You can look around the city and see," said Amar, curiously, because the street was totally deserted. "We are the secret police, but we have no secrets."

But for any visitor to Dahuk it is no secret that only a meagre portion of the population have returned from Iraq and Turkey, and serious doubts exist as to whether many others will come home. Reporters who went to the desolate frontier zone on Tuesday saw only a minimal increase in human activity since the last press visit one week ago, despite the subsequent creation of an American protected "safe haven" in Zakho, 25 miles from Dahuk.

The United Nations will soon establish an office in Dahuk, and create a network of scores of posts for UN workers. But the area is stricken by the nearly total absence of food, fuel, water and electricity.

If the exodus reversed itself, those coming home would find no quick escape from their misery across the border. "If these people outside the city came back,

we could not serve them for more than two days," said Dr Kazzal Hammadi, the chief surgeon of Saddam General Hospital, in Dahuk, in which only 30 of the 400 beds are filled. "Every day a relief group comes promising things, but nothing ever comes."

Beyond the immediate hardships, it was also clear that the government's pronouncements of an amnesty have failed to gain the confidence of many of the population who, in various shades, expressed fear about Baghdad's intentions.

One Kurdish man discreetly guided me to his house, where he showed doors that had been breached by looters who had cleared it of all valuables. Over a cup of syrupy tea in his courtyard he expressed despair about his situation after being his family home from the Turkish mountains three days ago. "We came back from Turkey because these children were dying," he said, putting the head of one of his scrawny tribe of offspring. "But in this city there is nothing. No food. No water. No life."

Dahuk's district governor, Mohammad Firoz Rostam, insisted to report-

ers that there would be no revenge against anyone who fled, and that lawbreakers would be judged only on the basis of legal testimony. "Until now, we have not sentenced anyone to death because nobody has given any testimony," he said.

"Ninety per cent of the Iraqi Kurds are with the government. Only 10 per cent are against us," he insisted during the impromptu press meeting in the city depopulated by terror.

His companion was president of Kurdistan's executive council, Jafar Abdul Karim Barzanchi. Last week he was in Baghdad, reportedly for talks with members of the two main Kurdish opposition groups that focused on a deal over self-rule arrangements through which he is currently employed by Baghdad as the nominally autonomous leader of Kurdistan province. He refused to comment on the negotiations, but before speeding off in a car claimed that "there was a conspiracy against the Kurds of Iraq."

"If the Americans can have any effect on the Turkish or Iranian side, then ask them to let the Kurds come home," said Mr Barzanchi, who fled to Baghdad during the rebellion. "Anyone who has committed a mistake, and wants to come home, then welcome to him. The door is open."

President praises general

Washington - President Bush

gave General Norman Schwarzkopf a heavy welcome back to the United States, saying his leadership during the Gulf war gave a big boost to American morale. "Welcome, well done," Mr Bush told General Schwarzkopf. "What you and your troops did in terms of fulfilling our objectives, was fantastic and what you and your troops did for the people in the United States of America is unbelievable," he said.

Neither would comment when asked about General Schwarzkopf's comments last month in which he said he had recommended troops "continue the march" to Baghdad but that the president had called off the destruction of Iraq's army.

The president, who has admitted General Schwarzkopf's no-nonsense approach to dealing with the media, grabbed the general by the arm and told reporters: "Would you like to see how a guy should handle the press? Come on, Norm. And don't change your style." The general said: "What I'd really like to say is that if the president is not going to answer any questions, I damn sure am not going to answer any questions."

Soldier loses foot

Ankara - An American sergeant, Todd Reed, aged 29, lost a foot when he stepped on a land mine at a Kurdish refugee camp near Urmia on the Turkish-Iraqi border, the US military said. Another man, Captain Daniel Cooper, suffered a minor shrapnel wound in the same explosion. (AP)

Surplus for aid

Luxembourg - European farm ministers are to examine whether some of the community's food surpluses could be sent to starving Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq. The idea was raised by the Irish Republic, but other ministers, though sympathetic, thought it might not work as supplies would have to be processed first.

Dress arrests

Nicosia - Tehran police detained 800 women for flouting an Islamic dress code which requires women appearing in public to be covered from head to toe, the Iranian news agency, IRNA, said. (Reuters)

GERMANY

Bonn to join aid effort

From Ian Murray in Bonn

GERMANY is to send up to 2,000 paratroopers and Pioneer Corps members to Iraq to help build three camps for Kurdish refugees.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, said in Berlin yesterday that he had reached agreement with the Iranian government to establish a security zone along the Iraqi border similar to the one set up by the United States in Iraq and that an airlift would be started by the German armed forces.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, has praised the Iranian government for its co-operation. He is to visit Tehran early next month for talks.

A decision on German help for Iraq is also likely soon. Herr Kohl said it went without saying that a rich country like Germany should make its contribution to humanitarian aid but that it was the duty of the international community to oppose the criminal policies of Iraq, which as far as the Kurds were concerned, could only be described as genocide.

The opposition Social Democratic party (SPD) has already said that it considers using the Bundeswehr in Iraq will be unconstitutional, but Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD chairman, said yesterday that his party stood ready to discuss a constitutional amendment which would clear the way for German troops to be used for humanitarian purposes endorsed by the United Nations.

German aid for the Kurdish refugees so far has totalled DM415 million (£140 million).

BAKER MISSION

US move to win Soviet support

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, will begin a hastily-arranged visit to the Soviet Union today to further his Middle East peace efforts. He is hoping to persuade Moscow to restore full diplomatic relations with Israel, which were severed 24 years ago.

During his talks with Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the foreign minister, in the southern Russian city of Kislovodsk tomorrow, Mr Baker will also seek to break the deadlock on two arms control treaties and so pave the way for a summit. Washington wants the Soviet Union to co-sponsor the Middle East peace conference that Mr Baker is striving to convene. Israel is making the restoration of diplomatic relations a condition for accepting Moscow's participation.

In Moscow, Vitali Churkin, the foreign ministry spokesman, said the Middle East and security arrangements in the Gulf would be the main topics, although other matters of mutual interest would be discussed. "It would be over-hasty to say that a date for a summit will be set," he said.

The Soviet Union, despite its internal problems, has stoutly defended its right to a say in the Middle East peace-making process, if only as a member of the United Nations Security Council.

Mr Baker will fly direct to Kislovodsk from Syria and will return to Israel on Thursday evening. When he meets Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli

prime minister, on Friday he hopes to receive a clear indication of the Israeli government's views on negotiating with the Arabs. Although all the parties in the proposed regional conference have agreed to meet in principle, it is feared that the traditional rivalry between Damascus and Jerusalem could prevent the meeting ever taking place.

The Israeli and Syrian leaderships disagree on the structure of the talks, who will represent the Palestinians and the involvement of the UN and the European Community. President Assad of Syria insists that Israel withdraw from all occupied Arab lands and in particular relinquish the Golan Heights. Mr Shamir and his government have vowed never to give up any captured lands.



Baker: off to Russia after his two-day visit to Syria



Assad: talks with Baker in Damascus yesterday

DIPLOMACY

Baghdad traps UN with camp request

From James Bone in New York

IRAQ formally asked the United Nations yesterday to take control of the refugee camps established by Western troops in northern Iraq.

The request immediately trapped the UN in the awkward position of having to agree terms for taking over the camps with both Western governments and Baghdad. Although British and American officials emphasise that the Western presence in northern Iraq is only temporary, they insist that the Kurds receive a measure of protection - possibly by the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force. Baghdad, on the other hand, wants to re-establish its authority over all Iraqi territory and has agreed to a purely

civilian UN relief operation.

A UN spokeswoman said that the organisation was studying the Iraqi request, and that it had been conveyed to Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the secretary-general, who was visiting France. The first tangible UN action is likely to be a trip by Bent Steward of Sweden, the UN representative in Baghdad, to northern Iraq later this week to inspect possible sites for relief centres.

Iraq's request to the UN was made in a letter from Ahmed Hussein al-Khadair, the foreign minister, to Señor Pérez de Cuellar.

KUWAIT

Palestinians race to beat residence deadline

From JAME DETTMER in Kuwait City

THE Kuwaiti army captain reached out to grab my notebook. The attempt repulsed, he sat back in his swivel chair in the cramped front office of the school. Four soldiers looked at him questioning to see if he was determined to seize the notebook.

"You need special order from interior ministry to talk to people in this area," he said. He shifted his white *ghutra* to cover more of his face. "You can't take any opinion from people in this area."

Outside, beneath the midday sun, the crowd of foreign nationals, mainly Palestinian, waited, waiting their turn to start the laborious process of registering for continued residence in the emirate. Most of the 5,000 to 6,000 men and a few hundred women had queued since the early hours in

order to be among the 100 or so who would manage to get into the school and apply.

Yesterday was the second day of registration. Non-Kuwaitis have been given until May 15 to register or face six months in prison, or a hefty fine. Those abroad now who fled the Iraqi invasion will not be allowed back. They include about 200,000 Palestinians, half the resident Palestinian population, according to government officials.

Gulf Arabs can register at their local governorate. For Palestinians, registration will be a race against time, which many could lose. All who live in the two main Palestinian districts here, Hawalli and far-flung Farwaniya, and those who live in Palestinian areas in Salamiyah, are required to register in the school on the Jabria-Hawalli border. Only 28 ministry staff have

been allocated to deal with up to 200,000 Palestinians. The staff are in no hurry. Despite interior ministry claims that more than 1,000 people were dealt with on Monday, the records at the school show that only 175 applications were processed.

Nadia, aged 32, said: "I was here at 6.30 in the morning on Monday and stayed until they closed at six in the evening, and I came back this morning at five. I have four children. I was born here, learnt here, married here, had my children here. I know nothing about Palestine."

Nearby, a Palestinian man asked a soldier for some application forms, explaining that he was needed at Farwaniya hospital where he is an administrator. The soldier started to hand some over. "What nationality are you?" the soldier asked. "Palestinian," the man said. "Get away, you

donkey," the soldier replied. Inside the school, Saad al-Asasi, an interior ministry official, said: "We don't need any more staff." Asked why most of the 28 staff seemed to be doing nothing, he said they were packing up for lunch - an hour early.

Most of the talk in the queues of Palestinians outside was centred on their fears that they would be excluded from state education. Sir Timothy Raison, the Tory MP, who is in Kuwait as vice-chairman of the British Council, is heading a team negotiating education deals with Kuwait. He agreed that he had the impression the government was thinking in terms of employing only Kuwaitis to teach in schools, which were likely to be exclusively for Kuwaiti children.

Rebuilding Kuwait, pages 30-32

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Gorl with suppl

PRESIDENT Gorbachev today implied tough leaders of the Soviet republics to back his economic reform plans, as senior Communists prepared to denounce performance as general a reform, and just conceivably force him out, at a meeting today.

The republics' leaders whose consent is vital if a reform plan is to have a chance of success, called it vague a utopian as they convened Moscow to discuss it. He ever some, including the leaders of the Ukraine and Kazakhstan, seem prepared to accept it in principle.

Mr Gorbachev's spokesman, Vitaly Ignatenko, spoke of unprecedented

Minsk workers resume strike

From Robert Seely in Kiev

INDUSTRIAL workers in the Soviet republic of Belorussia resumed a general strike yesterday to force the republic government to concede sweeping political changes. In the capital, Minsk, thousands of people, some carrying banners proclaiming "We want to live like capitalists", attended a rally in Lenin Square. Speakers read out list of demands which include the dismantling of the Communist party and the resignation of the Soviet government and President Gorbachev.

The workers' leaders are also calling for the introduction of a "Chernobyl" commission to try the responsible for the nuclear power station disaster, which happened five years ago this week. Sergei Mikhno, a spokesman, said: "Pay will not decide anything any more. It is a change in the system we want. We are striking against the Belorussian parliament and struggle for the sovereignty of the Russian people. The length of this action will depend on the decision made by the workers' collectives but at the moment the mood is to continue; it is an indefinite strike."

The workers' action, which has the support of hundreds of thousands of striking Russians and Ukrainian miners who stopped work two months ago, has been taken despite moves by the central government to declare a moratorium on strikes. Many factories in Minsk were reported to have been affected. Strikers claimed that 42 important plants - including the Minsk tractor factory, which employs 30,000 people - had stopped work. There was also widespread support in seven other cities. Public transport workers in Minsk have said they will join the strike today.

The demand by workers' leaders for special courts to try those responsible for the alleged disinformation spread after the Chernobyl accident some after years of alleged neglect of the republic's health problems. Mr Mikhno said: "Two million people live in the area affected by the atomic disaster." The Belorussian parliament is expected to meet today to formulate a strategy to cope with the increasing unrest.

Wales

WHILE President Wales handles the pomp of a British state visit, his advisers have plunged into a row over the military powers of the Polish head of state.

Lech Kuczyński, head of the President's National Security Council, yesterday crossed swords with Janusz Onysiewicz, the deputy defence minister, over who ultimately responsible for the Polish armed forces. The argument is one many that are taking place in the current constitutional vacuum. So far only the president has been chosen by an entirely free election. He nominated the government, which owes its authority to him. Parliament is still stacked with former communists whose seats were guaranteed by the new defence round table power-sharing agreement of 1989, and

Gorbachev pleads with republics to support his reforms

From Bruce Clark in Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday implorers sceptical leaders of the Soviet republics to back his economic reform plans, as senior Communists prepared to denounce his performance as general secretary, and just conceivably force him out, at a meeting today.

The republics' leaders, whose consent is vital if the rescue plan is to have a chance of success, called it vague and utopian as they convened in Moscow to discuss it. However some, including the leaders of the Ukraine and Kazakhstan, seem prepared to accept it in principle.

Mr Gorbachev's chief spokesman, Vitali Ignatenko, spoke of unprecedentedly

"sharp and frank discussion" at today's plenary session of the Communist party's central committee, but suggested that his leader would argue back passionately. While acknowledging that "things are not easy for Mikhail Gorbachev", the spokesman predicted that the president would "affirm, even more strongly, his faith that the cause in which he is leading his life is a just cause, one that holds great promise".

In an effort to rally liberal support, Mr Ignatenko said criticism of Mr Gorbachev was coming mainly from the party's notorious apparatus of full-time workers, and from reactionary forces who wanted revenge for the loss of power they suffered when perestroika was launched in 1985.

While republican leaders censured the ideas for not giving them enough power, his plan is likely to come under fire at today's meeting of Communists for conceding too much to capitalism and the free market.

Denunciations of Mr Gorbachev's leadership have been heard from local Communist organisations all over the country, including Leningrad, the industrial city of Sverdlovsk, and the vital oil centre of Tyumen. However, in a significant boost to the morale of the Gorbachev camp, the Moscow branch of the Communist party voted against moving a resolution of no-confidence, although several districts of the capital had already come out for a change of general secretary. First reports suggested that the vote in the Moscow party cell had been finely balanced.

The party daily *Pravda*, denouncing Mr Gorbachev's critics in terms that suggested considerable worry over his future, named four cities in the southwestern Soviet Union, the political heartland of Leonid Brezhnev, where Communists wanted a change of leader. It said there had been calls there for the leader's picture to be removed from walls, and even for him to be publicly tried for his failings. But the newspaper insisted

that there was no alternative to Mr Gorbachev and said many of his critics would be "wailing" if he actually left power.

Republican leaders were also summoned to Moscow to discuss clinching a deal on a new union treaty remaking the country as a looser federation. Mr Gorbachev made it clear during his recent visit to Japan that he is anxious for an early deal on the federal treaty. His proposals have been condemned by Kremlin conservatives for giving away too much of the central authorities' power, and by many republics for not giving away enough.

The Ukrainian prime minister, Vitold Fokin, said as he went into the talks that although the economic rescue plan had "many shortcomings" it none the less "cannot be rejected completely, because that would be destructive and against the public interest". Before today's Communist party meeting, some analysts were predicting that Mr Gorbachev would somehow "scrape through".

"I am convinced that Gorbachev will face the sharpest criticism since he became general secretary six years ago," Alexei Frigarin, a central committee member, told the liberal daily *Nezavisimaya*. But he added: "I am convinced all the same that he will not be removed from this post."

The post of general secretary of the Communist party was Mr Gorbachev's main source of authority until last spring, when he engineered the abolition of the Communists' formal monopoly on power, and his own elevation to the new position of executive state president.

Had he renounced his party post while remaining head of state last year, the move might have been interpreted as a spectacular attempt to jettison a declining Communist movement and consolidate his new law-based state. His removal from the party now would be a bitter humiliation.



Leading lady: Audrey Hepburn arriving at the Lincoln Centre in New York with actor Gregory Peck for a gala tribute in her honour. The event, organised by the Film Society, was attended by more than 200 people

Quake kills 50 in Costa Rica

San José — A powerful earthquake has killed at least 50 people and injured 500 others in the Costa Rican resort of Limón, toppling an hotel and destroying scores of homes.

Scores of people were feared trapped under the rubble after the earthquake, which registered 7.4 on the Richter scale, and thousands were left homeless.

Yesterday a 15-member British rescue team flew to Central America to help find people who may be trapped. The members of the International Rescue Corps planned to use ultra-sensitive listening devices, thermal-imaging cameras and fiber-optic probes to find survivors.

Alberto Lee, an official from the International Committee for the Red Cross, said a preliminary survey showed that 11 people died and 24 were injured when an hotel and a building in Limón collapsed. Eight people died and 15 were injured in the Panamanian provinces of Bocas del Toro and Chiriquí, near the border. (AP)

Budget deadlock

Luxembourg — European Community agriculture ministers yesterday failed for the third time to find a way to keep farm spending within its budget over the next 12 months. The dispute might have to be resolved by heads of government at their next summit, to be held here at the end of June.

Rail sale plea

Bonn — Heinz Dürr, the new head of Germany's railways, who has the task of merging the networks of east and west, called yesterday for the constitution to be changed to allow the system to be privatised. He said the change to a private company would lead to incentives for the 250,000-strong workforce.

Girl kidnapped

Melbourne — About 200 police are searching for Karmela Chan, aged 13, believed to be the latest victim of a kidnapper dubbed "Mr Cruel". She was seized at knife-point while looking after her two younger sisters. Two other girls were recently taken from their homes but subsequently freed. (Reuters)

Minsk workers resume strike

From Robert Serly in Kiev

INDUSTRIAL workers in the Soviet republic of Belorussia resumed a general strike yesterday to force the republic's government to concede sweeping political changes. In the capital, Minsk, thousands of people, some carrying banners proclaiming "We want to live like capitalists", attended a rally in Lenin Square. Speakers read out lists of demands which include the dismantling of the Communist party and the resignation of the Soviet government and President Gorbachev.

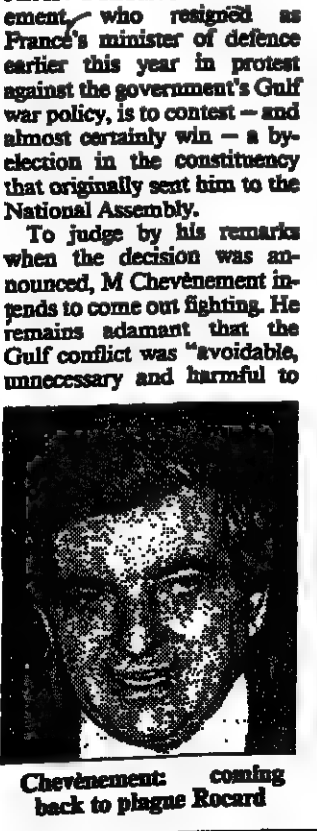
The workers' leaders are also calling for the introduction of a "Chernobyl crime" commission to try those responsible for the alleged cover-up after the nuclear power station disaster, which happened five years ago this week. Sergei Mikhno, a strike spokesman, said: "Pay rises will not decide anything any more. It is a change in the system we want. We are now striking against the Belorussian parliament and struggling for the sovereignty of the Belorussian people. The length of this action will depend on the decision made by the workers' collectives but at the moment the mood is to continue; it is an indefinite strike."

The workers' action, which has the support of hundreds of thousands of striking Russian and Ukrainian miners who stopped work two months ago, has been taken despite moves by the central government to declare a moratorium on strikes. Many factories in Minsk were reported to have been affected. Strikers claimed that 42 important plants — including the Minsk tractor factory, which employs 30,000 people — had stopped work. There was also sporadic support in seven other cities. Public transport workers in Minsk have said they will join the strike today.

The demand by workers' leaders for special courts to try those responsible for the alleged disinformation spread after the Chernobyl accident came after years of alleged neglect of the republic's health problems. Mr Mikhno said: "Two million people live in the area affected by the atomic disaster." The Belorussian praesidium is expected to meet today to formulate a strategy to cope with the increasing unrest.

Anti-war minister comes out fighting

From Philip Jacobson in Paris



Chevènement: coming back to plague Rocard

JEAN-PIERRE Chevènement, who resigned as France's minister of defence earlier this year in protest against the government's Gulf war policy, is to contest — and almost certainly win — a by-election in the constituency that originally sent him to the National Assembly.

To judge by his remarks when the decision was announced, M Chevènement intends to come out fighting. He remains adamant that the Gulf conflict was "avoidable, unnecessary and harmful to the prospects of peace in the Middle East", to say nothing of the damage it did to French interests there.

Although the socialists will support M Chevènement's campaign in Belfort, where he is a popular mayor, the prospect of this tough left-wing fighter returning to the back benches will not thrill the hard-pressed prime minister, Michel Rocard. It is no secret that the two did not get on long before M Chevènement's overt and provocatively voiced opposition to French policy in the Gulf war made his position untenable.

On past form, M Chevènement can be expected to support, probably lead, the "insurrectionist wing" of the party that believes M Rocard's pragmatic approach to governing without an absolute majority represents a betrayal of socialist principles. With the French economy, unemployment rising and the public service unions grumbling about pay, there should be ample scope for harassing the prime minister without actually voting against his policies.

Kohl opts for Berlin as capital

From Ian Murray in Bonn

HELMUT Kohl, the German chancellor, said yesterday that he supported Berlin's claim to be unified Germany's seat of government. Herr Kohl told a meeting in the city that he believed the country would stand a better chance of growing together if the decision were taken soon to move the government from Bonn to Berlin.

Berlin, under the terms of the treaty of union between the two Germanies, has already been designated the capital for all ceremonial purposes. The government, however, remains in Bonn.

The issue is causing deep divisions within the main parties. The Christian Social Union, the Christian Democratic Union's sister party in Bavaria, resents the idea of Berlin being given more status. Theo Waigel, the party's leader and the finance minister, promptly dismissed the chancellor's statement as nothing but "a decision by Bundestag member Kohl".

Herr Kohl said that he based his choice on his personal relations with the city and on the respect he had for his achievements during the years of division. Berlin deserved special trust, he said. He did not believe a move would be possible for ten to 15 years. Even then, he expected some ministries, such as defence, to remain in Bonn. "We owe it to Bonn to leave some functions there."

Herr Kohl's choice has been seen as important because of his role in unifying Germany. Though he will have no more say than any other Bundestag member in the free vote in June on where parliament should sit, his decision could influence some members.

Army hardliner takes charge

From Daria Trevisan in Belgrade

THE Yugoslav defence minister, General Veljko Kadijevic, who is believed to be gravely ill, has been admitted to hospital and his duties have been taken over by General Blagoje Adzic, a hardliner known for his hostility to the democratically elected nationalist government in Croatia.

The appointment, which it was said would be temporary, is bound to encounter bitter opposition from Croatia as well as Slovenia, inflicting new strains on the already shaky relations with the federal authorities in general, and

with the military establishment in particular.

General Adzic is known to have advocated intervention in Croatia, and for several months the Croatian authorities have demanded that he be removed from the post of chief of the general staff.

In contrast to General Kadijevic, who is regarded as a moderate and a firm Yugoslav, which means that in the Serbo-Croat conflict he takes a neutral stance, General Adzic is hostile to the new Croatian regime. During the recent crisis over the arming of police reservists in Croatia, he is

believed to have led the group in the army which favoured a military takeover. Croatia demanded his resignation, a demand which was repeated recently.

The army has grudgingly agreed to stay clear of politics while the republics continue to wrangle over Yugoslavia's future. But it has also said it would not stand by if ethnic conflicts broke out. The army remains hostile towards the governments in the northern republics, which it blames for the problems in Yugoslavia and for hostility towards the army.

Walesa aides fend off challenge

From Roger Boyes in Warsaw

WHILE President Walesa handles the pomp of his British state visit, his advisers have plunged into a row over the military powers of the Polish head of state.

Lech Kaczynski, head of the president's National Security Council, yesterday crossed swords with Janusz Onysiewicz, the deputy defence minister, over who is ultimately responsible for the Polish armed forces.

The argument is one of many that are taking place in the current constitutional vacuum. So far only the president has been chosen by an entirely free election. He nominated the government, which owes its authority to him.

Parliament is still stacked with former communists whose seats were guaranteed by the now defunct round table power-sharing agreement of 1989, and

wholly free elections are expected in the autumn. The result is that Mr Walesa and his team have been accumulating power. It was always clear that he wanted to be a more politically active head of state than his predecessor, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, but the awkward balance between parliament and president was drawn up with General Jaruzelski in mind.

President Walesa has been improvising solutions and his advisers have been following up by trying to give institutional force to the makeshift measures. Hence the row over the army. The political establishment agrees that a civilian defence minister should be appointed and that the army should be modernised, but also scaled down. This raises the relationship of the defence

minister to the army. At a stormy government committee meeting, Mr Kaczynski argued that the president, as supreme commander, should be the man to appoint the chief of general staff. Moreover, the president should have the sole right to nominate members of the National Security Council. Mr Onysiewicz, however, argued that this was scratching away at government control of defence policy. There was no role left for a defence minister.

Under the present constitution the president has the right to dissolve parliament, to initiate legislation and to declare a state of emergency. He has the duty to supervise foreign and defence policy. But there are strict parliamentary curbs on all these powers.

Mr Walesa, and particularly his two key advisers, the twins Jaroslaw and Lech Kaczynski, say that a lame-duck parliament populated by communists who did not earn their seats should not be in the business of curbing a democratically elected president.

The president's men pop up everywhere: his liaison man, Slawomir Siewek, sits in on all cabinet meetings to ensure that the president is fully informed about government plans.

This tug-of-war will continue at least until the new constitution is ready. Parliament is concentrating on changing national voting rules and thus paving the way for a general election. Only then, with a strong, independent parliament, will there be an effective counterweight to the powers of the president.

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Methods and manoeuvres



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GALLERIES

Executions of a summery nature

By today 12,000 works of art will have passed under the noses of the judges who will choose what is seen at the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition. Jane Hardy reports on a mammoth viewing

As innumerable flower paintings and dog paintings and even a portrait of Gorbachev went by, Anthony Green RA, principal hanger of the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition, spotted something he liked. Then he demurred. "No, we can't have those hot-cross buns - there's a current. It's too emotional." But perhaps hunger was clouding the critical faculty; this was just before the judging committee's break for coffee, biscuits and the traditional mixture of beef tea and sherry which fuels their enthusiasm for a mammoth task.

In spite of Green's idiosyncratic eye, word is that this great prize-giving art show - this year entitled "Whose Show Is It Anyway?" - is going to be really contemporary this time. Last year, there was innovation, a bronze of a man attacking a television, and inimitable controversy. "It was much too modern," said one couple, who were bringing in their son's work for judgement (Anthony Tribe, who has sold to Prince Charles).

The 223rd summer exhibition may be equally contentious. The judging committee is more modernist than usual (Sandra Blow and Craigie Aitchison are on, so too is sculptor Anne Christopher); while Roger de Grey, the Royal Academy presi-

dent, is negotiating to hang some modern masters alongside the where-I-went-on-my-holiday landscapes. Rumour suggests that a de Kooning may be among them, which would certainly offset the Frederick Gore effect.

That shift of emphasis clearly had not deterred Mr Peter Burt, a retired charity worker from Wolverhampton and one of

'At the moment, the summer exhibition is a potted art history, representing nearly everything except ethnic art'

the thousands of artists who submit work. He had paid £27 to put forward the maximum three paintings. As he unwrapped them from a blue blanket in the Academy vault last week, he talked about his love of art. "I rather like Monet and the Impressionists. There's something in their work which isn't appreciated at first sight." His work looked

doubtful with a small d, rather than Doubtful which is academy jargon for possible. The 12,000 works are whittled down by the judges to around 3,000 Doubtfuls, of which approximately 1,200 are hung. Since Academicians are free to show six works each, only half the space goes to real outsiders.

Until 1903, the vault was even more crowded, as non-academicians were allowed to submit up to eight works to the "creative free-for-all". Jonathan Hoyle, a professional painter who uses this phrase and brought in two pleasantly anachronistic landscapes, likes his summer exhibition the way it is. "I'm not avant-garde, so the traditional feel doesn't bother me. Although the show has had a poor image, it provides one of the few opportunities for young painters to exhibit."

The precise amount of freedom in this free-for-all presents the Academy with its greatest dilemma: whether to leave the show as it is ("an indulgence", according to the president) or divide academicians from Sunday painters, as some critics and artists such as Sir Anthony Caro would prefer. Mention Caro's name to Roger de Grey or Anthony Green, and you receive a pained smile. "I was saddened he didn't join us, but he is probably not clubbable," said Green.



"The 13-strong committee, including architects and sculptors, sit on dining chairs and watch the conveyor-belt of paintings pass by"

Caro in fact declined the honour of adding RA to his name last year, partly because he felt the standard of sculpture in the exhibition to be low. Roger de Grey is more sanguine about the snub, particularly as he has David Hockney ("he did a radio commercial for us") as an RA.

What is the answer to the quality-control problem? At the moment, the summer exhibition is a potted art history, representing nearly everything except ethnic art, which de Grey claims is not much good. De Grey's keenness to import 20th-century name painters as a standard within the show is one response to the regular criticism. Alternating professionals and amateurs is another idea, but one which de Grey

opposes. "Our constitution stipulates that we have to show the best available contemporary work, wherever it comes from, and that's what we do. Anyway, most of the work entered is by professional artists."

That is true. As the paintings whizzed by, each gaining five seconds of real attention as it was placed by an RA student on the stool in front of the judges, some were recognised as by old friends. "Isn't that a Daphne Todd?" So perhaps separating sheep from goats is not so hard.

This year, though, it has been more a question of separating sheep from sheep. There is always a joke among judges and students

about the "unconscious" theme of the work sent in. In the past it has been owls, dormice, front doors. This year it is sheep and pigs. Group and individual animal portraits have turned up in still life. Anthony Green, also on the hanging committee, said they would choose a few as Doubtful and hang the best in both pig and sheep categories.

Judging takes three days. The seven or eight eminent artists of the 13-strong committee, which includes architects and sculptors and changes annually, sit on dining-room chairs and watch the conveyor-belt of paintings pass by. Their gentle jibes - "a classic piece of overframing", said de Grey of a painterly pig's face

surrounded by an ornate frame with shell effect - reveal unease about the mixture of good professional work and the amateur's picture of a lifetime.

But de Grey remains defiant. "I am not going to defend the show - it stands on its own," he said. And of course it does, in spite of regular vilification from critics such as Brian Sewell. Green claimed these attacks are "a weight to spank us with - but we like spanking". As Liam Thompson, an exhibitor for eight years, put it: "It may be middle-class, white and great for mums, but there isn't anything like the summer exhibition anywhere else."

• The summer exhibition opens at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly (071-439 7438) on June 9.

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

Choose carefully from Mozart by the metre

Decca's compact Mozart, skimming the output from K.1 (a minute he wrote when he was five) to K.626 (the Requiem which was, of course, unfinished at his death), is an attractive proposition, especially when it takes the intriguing form of a year-by-year survey.

The decision to represent the operas by extracts (usually ensembles, which is a plus point) was perhaps unavoidable; otherwise the full scope of Mozart's music could not be suggested, as sometimes it is here within a single volume (the tawdry of 1778, for instance, produces the Oboe Concerto, the "Paris" Symphony, the dramatic Sonatas in E minor for violin and in A minor for piano, and the grand concert aria for an *Alceste*).

There is also a good range of old and new recordings, including some that have not

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Arleen Auger soloist in the C Minor Mass

been previously released. Among these is an outstanding account - at once nimble and radiant, fresh and sensuous - of the C minor Mass by the Winchester Cathedral chorists and the Academy of Ancient Music under Christopher Hogwood, with the soprano Arleen Auger as the principal soloist. Each record comes with an essay by H.C. Robbins Landon, but without texts or translations of the vocal works.

Meanwhile the massive Philips 180-disc complete

collection moves ever onward, reaching now into distant Mozartian corners never previously explored by record producers. The set of quintets and quartets with wind soloists, for instance, has an appendix an entire record of abandoned complete or fragmentary movements.

These include two failed finales testifying to his labours on the quartets he dedicated to Haydn; there are also the tantalising openings of a string trio and of string quintets in B flat and A minor, the latter being a particularly poignant and powerful possibility. All of these beginnings were drafted as far as the end of the exposition; the record producer and scholar Erik Smith has filled in missing parts.

Philip Wilby's interventions are more daring in versions of two unfinished scores offered with the violin concertos: the Concerto for piano and violin and the Sinfonia Concertante for string trio. Not only does he complete the projected first movements, but in the case of the double concerto he adds a slow movement and finale by orchestrating the relevant movements of the D major violin sonata.

The effect is not very convincing, and now is the justification advanced for it. But it is certainly good to hear the drafted material: especially the spacious start of the triple concerto, which Wilby regards as an ancestor of the Sinfonia Concertante for violin and viola and completes accordingly. The performances, though, stand a bit shamefacedly beside Szeryng's of the solo concertos.

One new performance of exceptional quality is that of the string trio divertimento by Augustin Dumay, Gérard Caussé and Gary Hoffman. There is burning involvement in the playing, and a wide range of tone (from a very quiet, estranged, almost vibrato-free style, as at the opening of the first movement's development, to vibrant richness and force). Yet a quality of distance and austerity remains. There will always be these isolated peaks, along with the shellshocks of ordinary Mozart releases.

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Not paying — and pleased about it

Private schools say rising fees and recession do not deter parents: so why are some going over to the state sector? Jane Bidder reports

As pupils return to private schools this week after the Easter break — two weeks after their state contemporaries — some Volvos and Range Rovers will be missing from the parents' car-park.

While the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) has reported a slight rise in pupils in the face of the recession, there is evidence at playground level of parents moving their children from private schools to the state sector.

Their reasons are not always financial. When Laura and Steven Appleton moved to Henley, Oxfordshire, last month, they switched their two older children, Anna (aged eight) and Mark (five), from a suburban prep to a state primary. "I'd always thought,

'Expense was not the primary factor, but moving areas was a good time to test out the state system'

"rather snobbily, that you paid for what you sent your children to a fee-paying school, but we were disappointed with one or two of the children's old teachers, who were not as patient as we had hoped," Mrs Appleton says. "Expense was not the primary factor: we'd make any sacrifice if we thought it was worth it. But moving areas was a good time to test out the state system, particularly as Henley is quite an affluent area."

The Appletons are "more than happy" with their decision. Class sizes average 24, with one teacher and up to three helpers. "The children love the slightly progressive teaching methods whereby different activities are carried out at different tables. My only criticism is that they seem to read less. Anna is also finding the work quite easy, but this might be because she is bright."

cutbacks, the Appletons have not seen any evidence of them: there is no shortage of books or resources, and there are several extra-curricular activities. "The only thing I do miss are the old school's grounds and the lovely building," Mrs Appleton says. "The new one is modern, with a much smaller playground. But we have gained through a more rounded education and mixing with the community. The atmosphere is so good that the children have adjusted easily. And because they come home earlier, we have time to play in the garden or make tea together instead of them crashing out with exhaustion."

The total termly bill for both children at private school was about £2,000, so far at the state primary, the Appletons' biggest expense has been £3.50 for a school trip. "We will put the money we would have spent on fees towards holidays and enhancing life on a daily basis. When you get a good education like this, it doesn't seem worth paying for another kind."

Some private schools agree that the Appletons are not alone. Ampleforth College, a boys' school in Yorkshire, made six staff redundant this year, partly because of falling pupil numbers. And although the headmaster, Father Dominic Milroy, claims this is because parents choose to send their children to private schools nearer home, he has also helped up to 30 families who cannot afford the fees any more. "Often one of the parents has been made redundant, in which case we can put them in touch with charitable financial institutions."

However, David McMurray, the headmaster at Oundle school for boys in Northamptonshire, claims his school is more popular than ever, and that two new houses have had to be built to accommodate rising numbers. But he also believes the recession has made parents more critical of schools, and more street-wise in "assessing value for money".

Even those blessed with fame and fortune are becoming more



Taking the community road: Barry McGuigan (plus three-year-old Jake) walks Danika and Blain to their state primary school in Kent

astute in making schools out of ten. Sandra McGuigan and her husband Barry, the boxer, moved their two children, Blain (seven) and Danika (five), from a pre-prep to the local village school when they bought a house in Kent nearly two years ago. "We would have spent the money on private education if we had thought it was necessary, but we were willing to save the expense because the local school was so good," says Mrs McGuigan, who is now on the PTA. "It's a very personal and informal school, with 115 children and five teachers, and has an excellent reputation in getting pupils through the 11-plus. I can think of at least ten other parents who have moved their children from fee-paying schools to this one simply because of that."

Another big advantage of defecting from the private sector, the McGuigans say, is becoming part of the community. "Now our two are at the village school, we all feel we belong. There's much less

of the 'us and them' divide." Academically, Mrs McGuigan says the school has been terrific for Blain: "His reading has come on in leaps and bounds because he was given simple books over and over again without any pressure. Consequently, he's more relaxed and articulate and I, too, have put less pressure on him to do well."

Mrs McGuigan believes standards in this particular school are as high as in its private rivals, although it lacks the facilities offered by fee-paying institutions. "Blain plays football and cricket only on the village green, and that depends on how many fathers come along to help out. Consequently, we spend quite a lot of time after school taking them to outside sports clubs. Nor are there any language lessons, although some mothers and I recently hired a French teacher to coach local children from our house. And we haven't got the

wonderful science labs or computer room that we had."

Mrs McGuigan's role on the PTA has also brought home the meaning of cutbacks: "I wouldn't say we were short on textbooks but we certainly have to watch our budget, and we raise a lot of cash through jumble sales."

Like many other mothers, Mrs McGuigan reads every week to children in the school, while other parents help out generally in the classroom. "I'm not saying that all state schools are better than private ones," she says. "In fact, if your child is not very academic, a private school is more likely to pull him up to an acceptable level which he might not reach in the state system."

A trickle of custom from private to state does not surprise professional teaching bodies, such as the National Association of School Teachers. "Economic pressures are making it harder to find school fees, and some parents will

step down in the world," says the association's spokesman, Nigel de Gruchy, who was delighted to hear of the McGuigans' and Appletons' approval of the state system. "Many other parents would be amazed at the good facilities on offer if they bothered to consider the other side."

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, believes that independent schools "now have to accept more intense competition from state schools thanks to the recession". He also suggests guidelines for parents about how to make the move to state education: "Ask the head what provision is made for children who are above average, and study work samples and examination results carefully. Visit a variety of schools in action and look at class sizes, books, equipment, discipline and pastoral care, to see how the school creates a caring community. That, after all, is what it is all about."

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The General Director is responsible to the Chairman and Board of ENO for the overall artistic, administrative and financial leadership of the Company. Candidates should apply in writing to the Chairman of ENO:

The Rt Hon the Earl of Hereford KBE
Chairman's Office
London Coliseum
St Martin's Lane
London WC2N 4ES
(marked 'In Confidence')

Salary will be negotiable and applications should be received by 31 May 1991.

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EXT 158/165

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APPOINTMENTS Bi - LANGUAGE

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During 1991 we will be launching a major product into a new highly competitive market sector. The opportunity to grow sales in an expanding market has never been better - hence the need to expand our sales activity.

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Desking Systems
Irene Home
Chalfont
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desking SYSTEMS

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QUALITY FUR

Technique Ltd to the British Technicians and has been established since the Company has major contracts supplying off and on-line. A large number of complete furnishing of premises. For this growing activity the

MAJOR ACCO

The right candidate, aged 30-35, experience in the field of office identifying, concluding and closing deals. We are looking for a person intrinsically with very good career prospects. Please send your reply with the attention of Mr John F. confidence and will all receive

SALES EXECUTIVE INDUSTRIAL CONSUMABLES

O.T.E. Ltd + car + benefits Crown Graphic is the supplier of recording consumables, CAD graphics. We are looking for experienced and highly motivated sales executives. Applicants should have a proven track record in an environment displaying account and new business. Working from home in Yorkshire, Humberside, Greater Manchester and ideally you will reside within the M62.

A competitive package with the person who can prove ability and determination. Please apply in writing to Blundell, Sales Manager, etc.

Crown Graphic
Clyde Valley
Forest Hill
London, S

Top 100 1990

Looking for a place in the country

Yet another green-walled marksmen is taking a pot shot at *Country Life*, one of the plumpest cash cows in the publishing meadow. Last week Francis Fulford, a Devon landowner, announced plans for a new title, *Countryweek*. Together with his business partner, Julie Spencer, a former editor of *The Field*, he is raising £750,000 (from a Business Expansion Scheme) for a magazine which aims to have a circulation of 40,000 within a year, and advertising revenue of £1.1 million.

That is still a long way short of the £14.4 million which IPC's *Country Life* netted last year, according to figures from Media Expenditure Analysis Ltd (Meal). And 1990 was a bad year for that magazine's principal income, its glossy high-value property advertisements. In 1989 the total was more than £16 million, making it one of the top ten British magazine earners.

The message is clear. There is gold in those rolling acres. And ever since the Thatcher boom years, when well-heeled baby boomers forsook London for Wiltshire, magazine publishers have been looking at ways of getting their hands on it.

First, they need to disturb the century-old market dominance of *Country Life*, a

Challengers are lining up to bid for a slice of the *Country Life* pie, Andrew Lycett reports

weekly, and *The Field*, a monthly. Few sectors of the publishing market can boast the pedigree of these two titles. The former dates back to 1897, the latter to 1853, when it was founded by R.S. Surtees, creator of *Jorjacks*. Neither has a vast circulation (about 50,000 for *Country Life* and 40,000 for *The Field*). But both enjoy comfortable niche positions and inspire plenty of imitations.

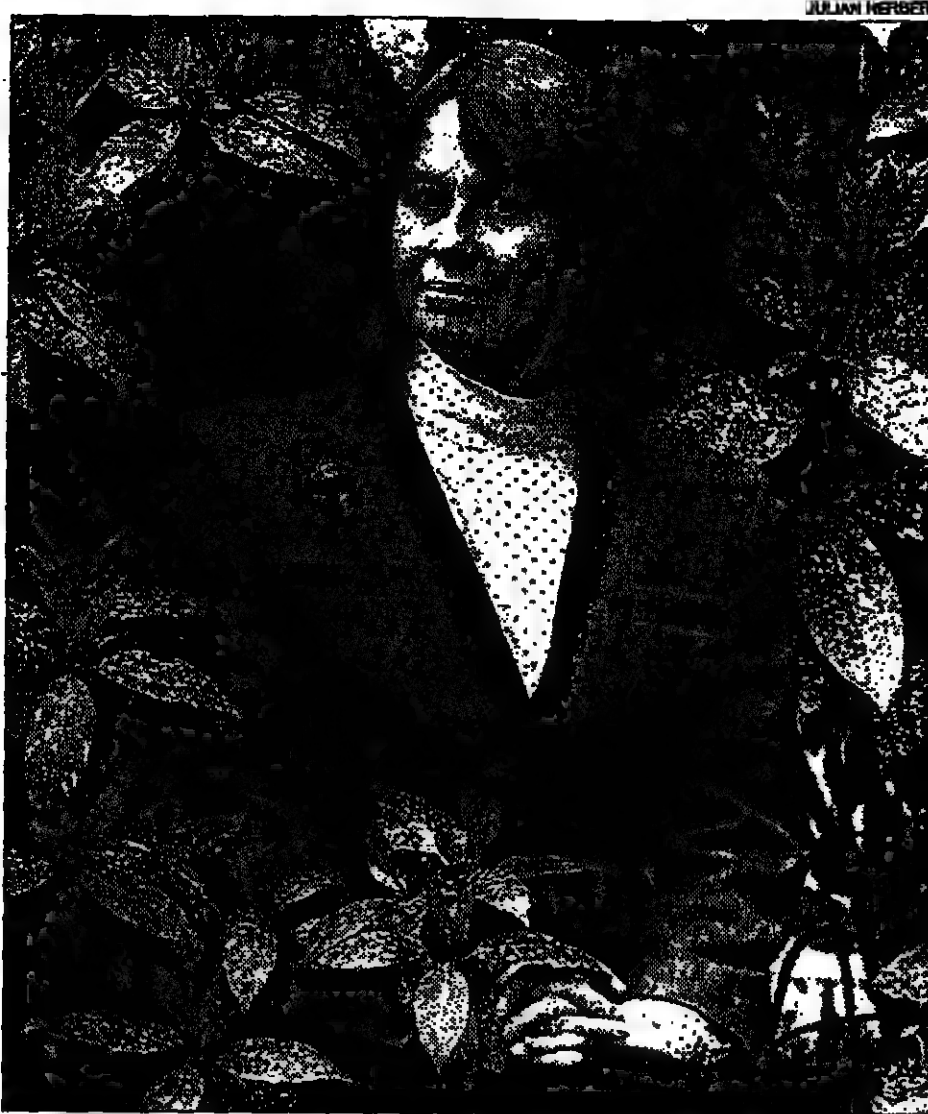
Miss Spencer is not the first former editor to think she could do better. In 1987 Marcus Binney, a former editor of *Country Life*, poached the magazine's advertisement director and set up *Landscape*, a glossy monthly which concentrated particularly on heritage and the environment. It lasted barely a year before merging with *Country Times*, a new launch from Michael Heseltine's Haymarket Publishing, edited by Simon

Courtneil, also a former editor of *The Field*.

Country Times just survived into the new decade, before being swallowed up by *The Field* which, since Miss Spencer's departure last February, has been edited by Jonathan Young, former editor of *Shooting Times*.

Messrs Binney and Courtneil did not stray far from the established countryside publishing formula — articles about stately piles and fine art if *Country Life* is your model, about fly-fishing and hedgeswains if *The Field*.

IPC's *Country Homes and Interiors*, first published in 1986, and *National Magazine's Country Living* took another approach, targeting the female half of the new generation of first-time rustics. *Country Living*, set up in 1985, initially as a biannual supplement to *Good Housekeeping*, has articles on paring and the bucolic lifestyles of personalities such as Sir Terence Conran, skilfully mixed with more traditional green-tinted features. The result is very successful. *Country Living* now sells 176,000 copies each month and pulls in advertising revenue of nearly £4 million a year. *Country Homes and Interiors* sells 90,000, with advertising revenue of nearly £2 million.



Hoping for rural gold: Julie Spencer, once of *The Field*, now launching *Countryweek*

An alternative approach to countryside publishing will emerge next week when Gerry Malone, former editor of *The Sunday Times* in Scotland, finalises his purchase of the 25,000 strong membership arm of the Leitchworth-based Country Gentlemen's Association (CGA). Included in the deal is the right to publish *Country*, the association's monthly magazine. The

magazine was previously published by Hamfield, which went into receivership following its venture into television listings with *TV Plus*. The intention is to keep *Country* a closed circulation magazine.

Back in the "real" publishing world, competitors speak respectfully of *Countryweek's* "bravery" in launching now. However, Mr Fulford, the new magazine's managing director,

argues that the recession will force the magazine to keep its costs tight.

He says *Countryweek* will be topical, reporting political and economic news relevant to the countryside. Mr Fulford is properly correspondent of *The Field*, with all the estate agent contacts that means. *Country Life's* coveted display advertising income could finally come under pressure.

Recent items in the experimental *Women's* page of the newspaper's features section included "Women have an inherent investing edge", "Caring closet (wardrobe) clutter" and "Men's den: a place of their own".

Ms Dishon believes she may be starting a trend, but not everyone is impressed. "It's surprising," says Maxwell King, the executive editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. "I thought we moved away from those things 20 years ago."

CHARLES BREMNER

Pressure point

WITH three weeks to go before Channel 3 licence applications must be handed in, Yorkshire Television has run into trouble with some independent producers in its region. The company has asked the producers to write letters supporting its bid but, according to Paul Berriff, who made *Animal Squad* for the BBC, it has promised in return only to "put names forward" for future work. Frank Hasson, the deputy director of the Independent Programme Producers Association, has complained to Yorkshire and advised independents not to send the letters. Meanwhile, Yorkshire is denying any suggestion that it is putting unfair pressure on producers.

New order

UNESCO is to abandon its controversial media policy, known as the "New World Information Order", which was seen as one of the main reasons both Britain and the United States dropped out of the organisation in the early Eighties. The policy was intended to force the

media of the developed world to present the third world in a favourable light, even if this meant interfering with the free flow of information. Western countries complained that the policy was tantamount to censorship, and UNESCO has relented, announcing yesterday that it is to devise a new media policy.

Frankly unsurprising

NOT surprisingly, consumers are more influenced by the "objective views" of journalists than by advertising and direct marketing when they decide what goods to buy, a report on the public relations industry by Research International (RI) has found. Roger Banks, a director of RI, says the findings show that companies should spend more money getting their message across to journalists through public relations than on advertising.

Silence, please

FORMER editors and senior employees of Mirror Group Newspapers have never spoken publicly about the reasons for their departures or their relationship with the proprietor, Robert Maxwell. If the termination agreement signed by Roy Greenslade, dismissed last month as the editor of the *Daily Mirror*, is any indication, then perhaps it is because they have been bound not to. Mr Greenslade could receive his compensation payment only if he signed the agreement, which he understood stopped him from talking for six months. It transpires the agreement prevents him from ever saying anything that could bring directors of



Roy Greenslade

Mirror Group Newspapers or associated companies into disrepute. Unable to work for a rival newspaper for six months, Mr Greenslade says he has a lot of time on his hands. Nevertheless, apparently he has turned down a six-figure salary job on a television programme, saying he prefers newspapers.

Funds for radio

BBC Network Radio has taken the unprecedented step of setting up a £250,000 fund to commission independent radio productions. David Hatch, the managing director of BBC Radio, says he hopes the fund will "kickstart" the infant independent radio sector. The money will be available to producers wanting to work for any of the five BBC radio networks.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Women reclaim their space

Feminism killed the women's pages. Now an American newspaper is reviving them

FOR the past two decades America's newspapers have regarded the words "women's pages" with the same disdain as "housewife" or "sex hotline". All main dailies scrapped them, although they continued to run material of special interest to women under other names — such as "style".

On April 28, the venerable *Chicago Tribune* is taking a leap into the past or the future, depending on how you look at it, by launching a Sunday section called *Womanweek*. The venture is being watched closely by a publishing in-

dustry struggling to attract younger customers as newspaper readers desert to television and other media.

The *Tribune's* editors, highly sensitive to the implications of their step, say they are convinced by their research and a four-year experiment with a Sunday feature section that women want articles on their interests and female role models in their newspaper. Colleen Dishon, the *Tri-*

bune associate editor who has created the section, says it responds to a powerful shift in attitudes among American women over the past few years. They have won enough self-confidence to say "I don't care what you call it, I'm proud to be a woman", she

says. "It's probably the most exciting thing I've seen, and I've been around a long time." American women seem to be reverting to an older idea of womanhood, although it is "not exactly a return to the way things were", she says. "Most of the women we serve

are women who work — they have to work — but there is a kind of nostalgia. You see women at a business meeting needle-pointing. Women are remembering maybe how mother had it or maybe how they thought they had it."

Although the recession has shaken out some titles, the market is flooded with glossy women's magazines on everything from home entertaining to current affairs and fashion.

CREATIVE, MEDIA & MARKETING APPOINTMENTS



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Tecno (UK) Ltd is the British subsidiary company of the multinational Tecno group and has been established in this country since 1982. During this period the Company has been awarded and completed a number of major contracts supplying office furniture as well as storage, partitions and seating. A large number of important contracts consisted of the complete furnishing of prestigious blue-chip corporation headquarters. For this growing activity the Company now requires a

MAJOR ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE

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18 New Bond Street
London W1Y 9HF



CROWN GRAPHIC

Crown Graphic are European leaders in the manufacture and distribution of instrumentation consumables to the industrial, laboratory, medical and graphics markets.

We have two senior management vacancies at Crown Graphic (UK) Ltd., our manufacturing and distribution centre in London, SE23.

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c £24,000 + car or car allowance + benefits

An excellent opportunity for a well organised and highly motivated professional who can evidence leadership skills and a good track record in the management of people and systems. Applicants should be computer literate and of graduate calibre.

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(Medical recording charts and accessories)
c £20,000 + commission + car + benefits

We need an energetic person of graduate calibre to identify and implement an entry strategy for the UK medical user market. Applicants should be able to demonstrate some originality and flair and should be prepared to prove themselves through successful sales efforts. Close liaison with colleagues in Belgium, where we manufacture these particular products, will be necessary.

Apply in writing with a full CV including details of current salary, to:

Julian Tope, Managing Director,
Crown Graphic (Europe) Ltd.,
Babbage Road, Totnes, S. Devon, TQ9 5XH.

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Crown Graphic is the independent supplier of recording consumables for instrumentation, CAD and business graphics. We are looking for an experienced and highly motivated sales executive. Applicants should have a proven track record in an industrial sales environment displaying skills in both account and new business activity. Working from home you will cover Yorkshire, Humberside, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside and ideally you will reside within easy access of the M62.

A competitive package will be offered to the person who can prove they have the ability and determination to succeed.

Please apply in writing to Richard Blundell, Sales Manager, enclosing your CV.

Crown Graphic UK Ltd,
Clyde Vale,
Forest Hill,
London, SE23 3JQ.

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LONDON W13 9AA

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THE NATIONAL HALL, OLYMPIA, LONDON - 27, 28, 29 JUNE 1991

THE TIMES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

DIRECTIONS
CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

DONALD C. COOPER

● **CHOICE** The present over-exposure of the prime minister continues with the scoop of Number 10's cameras. It is the first time television cameras for the first time As we have come to learn, televised Parliament and Springtime Image are often indispensable, as one wonders if the behind-the-scenes look at the prime minister's private life is a necessary part of the combination of bumbling and slickness seen in *Yes, Prime Minister*, or merely demonstrates how dull, to the outsider, the business of endless government meetings is. The programme, however, with its lack of subtlety and its over-the-top acting, and the resulting strain (pained, overworked), yet in interview with Sue Cameron he is at times to stress the bright side more laughably in the office than you would think, he says, a development, only to the image, since the court of his predecessor

9.15 **Re-Play: The Neckbeard.** A short play about the Glimmer land by two teenagers sleeping rough on the streets who find a valuable neckbeard. One wants to hand it in to the police the other sees it as a ticket back from poverty (f)

9.30 **The Beer Hunter.** The Burgomasters of Belgium. Michael Jackson, the distinguished beer taster and journalist, in the first of a series exploring the world's beers (f) (Teletext)

10.00 **The Golden Girls: The Competition.** The award-winning comedy series with the wisest scripts on television about a group of "older" women sharing a Miami home Tonight, a bowling competition is set to decide whether Sophia (Estelle Getty) returns to Sicily with an old flame or stays in Florida (f) (Teletext)

10.35 **Film.** First Monday in October (1981) starring Walter Matthau and Jill Clayburgh. Verbose version of the Jerome Lawrence/Robert E. Lee stage hit about the clash of wills between the first female member of the Supreme Court, who happens to be a committed conservative, and one of her liberal-minded peers Directed by Ronald Neame

12.25 **Documentary.** The Sea Spilled Over Wide. A documentary about the horrors of the building of the Soviet Union's White Sea Canal Ends at 1.00

Football 10.00 Live Test Match
2.00 Scottish Football

SPORTSPOST

8 p.m. the Astra satellite.
00:00m Sunrise 6.00 The DJ Ket 7.90
00:00m Sports 8.00 Ice Hockey World Championships
10:00m Sports Championship of Champions
10:00m 03:00m 10:00m Denmark and recipient
International Golf 10:00m German Touring
10:00m 2:00m Cycling 3:00m Indoor Hockey 4:00m
00:00m Euro Football World Cup 5:00m Tennis
Pond Championships 5:00m The Rotterdam
Marathon 6:00m European News 7:00m
00:00m Sports 8:00m Football 10:00m
Marital Arts Festival 10:00m Archery World
Championships 11:00m European Cup Football
at 12:00m Golf Championship 12:00m European
News 1:00m Tennis 11:00m

SCREENSPORT

8 p.m. the Astra satellite.
00:00m Screen Sports Festival 7.30 British Touring
cars 8.00m Action Auto 8.30m Tennis Philippe

LIFESTYLE

8 p.m. the Astra satellite.
10:00m The Great American Gameshow 11:00m
11:00m Coffee 12:00m Workshop 11:00m
12:00m Dancing 12:00m Sally Jessy Raphael
12:00m What's the News 1:00m Search For Tomorrow
1:00m The Edge of Night 2:00m Live. Women
Voter (8:30m) 3:55m Live 4:00m 4:00m 4:00m
The Great American Gameshow 5:00m The
Sally Jessy Raphael Shopping Programme 6:00m
Close 10:00m The Sally Jessy Raphael
Programme 12:00m Saturday Junction

MTV

8 p.m. the Astra satellite.
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SKY MOVIES+

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Parrow H.M. The QUEEN
16 OGLE STREET, LONDON W1P 7LL
(REGISTERED CHARITY 228089)

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-36
● FOCUS: REBUILDING KUWAIT 30-32
● LAW 35
● SPORT 43-48

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

Tarmac falls to £190m

PRE-TAX profits at Tarmac, the housebuilding and construction group, almost halved last year, from £377 million to £190.7 million. The final dividend is held at 8.25p, making an unchanged 11.25p for the year.

Housing profits plunged from £183.5 million to £67.3 million, but the group sold 11,209 (12,085) houses in the year. Trading in the first half of this year is no better than the second half of last year.

Tempus, page 27

BZW closure

Barclays de Zotte Wedd, the investment banking arm of Britain's largest clearing bank, is to close its American equity trading operation with up to 60 job losses. Jonathan Davis, chief executive of the equities division, said a detailed review concluded that the cost of building and maintaining a business in American equities would not produce adequate returns in the foreseeable future.

Guidehouse loss

Guidehouse Group, the financial services concern, reported losses of £673,000 (£325,000 profits) for last year. Losses were 4p a share (earnings of 0.7p). There is no final dividend, leaving the total payment for the year at 0.1p a share (0.6p). Extraordinary costs of £1.77 million relate to the write down of investments to net realisable values.

Bid extended

Costs Virella's £194 million bid for Tootal, has been formally extended until May 6, although the takeover bid clock has been stopped until Peter Lilley, trade secretary, hears about monopoly implications. Meanwhile Tootal rejected in the observation that Costs' acceptance had decreased by some 40,000 shares, as holders were permitted to withdraw for the first time.

Cannon issue

Cannon Street Investments is raising £46.7 million, from a placing of overvalued and the rest from a rights issue. Proceeds will be used to bring down borrowings from 400 per cent to about 80 per cent.

Tempus, page 27

US dollar

1.7120 (+0.0190)

German mark

2.9823 (-0.0059)

Exchange index

91.7 (+0.1)

FT 30 Share

1965.8 (+11.4)

FT-SE 100

2503.8 (+13.0)

New York Dow Jones

2931.93 (+4.21)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

26491.57 (+254.56)

RISER

250p (+12p)

250p (+10p)

220p (+8p)

220p (+8p)

220p (+8p)

220p (+8p)

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Mismanagement blamed for recession

Tory record savaged by directors

By JOHN BELL, BUSINESS EDITOR

BRITAIN'S business leaders have severely criticised the government's economic record, laying blame for the present recession on mismanagement and policy failures.

The attack, at yesterday's annual conference of the Institute of Directors, was the most hostile since the Confederation of British Industry promised a "bare knuckle fight" with the government in the early Eighties.

The recession was a failure of the government's economic management, Mr Peter Morgan, director general of the institute, said. He added that the government had "torpedoed" the business renaissance of the past decade by allowing runaway inflation.

And Robert Horton, the chairman of BP, complained that after 12 years of Conservative rule the economy was "beset by inflation".

"If, in May 1979, I had been told that this country was about to have the undoubted benefit of 12 uninterrupted years of Conservative rule, I would have expected a pretty generous Budget 12 years on - and certainly not one where the conquering of inflation remains the number one priority," Mr Horton said.

In the Commons, Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, challenged the prime minister

to reply to the IoD. "Isn't it clear that as former Chancellor of the Exchequer, you must bear a special, personal burden of guilt?" he asked.

Mr Major replied: "If the difficulties the economy faced were solely the result of domestic economic mismanagement, it is an oddity therefore that there are recessions in the US, Canada, Australia, Sweden, Finland and many other countries as well."

Mr Kinnock said last week's government figures showed unemployment soaring and productivity collapsing. In a reference to yesterday's trade figures he said they showed that imports and exports were widely out of balance again, with imports rising twice as fast as exports.

"Is there any wonder that the IoD, like everyone else, understands very well that this is a recession hand-made in Downing Street by you?" But to Tory cheers, Mr Major replied: "If you care to examine the trade figures more carefully, you would find that export volumes are up on last year and import volumes are down."

Earlier, at the IoD conference, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, speaking before Mr Morgan and Mr Horton, said that Britain will begin pulling out of the recession in the second half of this year. He was confident the government was on course to meet its

objectives on beating inflation, but gave a warning that unemployment would continue rising for some time.

In his IoD speech, Mr Morgan complained that the government had failed to stay true to free market ideals. "This awful recession which is causing so much grief is the failure of government economic management," he said. "It is government failure, not market failure."

"We should expect government to deliver zero inflation, but because political survival is so often at stake, governments themselves cannot be relied on to resist the temptation to fuel inflation to win elections. This is why the institute has called for an independent Bank of England."

Mr Morgan accused the Conservatives of failing to cut taxes sufficiently.

He questioned whether there was really any substantive difference between the economic policies of Conservative and Labour. "Makes no mistake," he said "there are black clouds on the horizon of business."

"A high taxed economy means that business will be squeezed in the very years when it is expected to pull the country out of recession and create new jobs."

Reports, page 26
Comment, page 27

Dollar slides as data confirm US recession

By ANATOLE KALETCHY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE dollar fell sharply yesterday on evidence that the American economy was still mired in recession and signs that the world's central banks and finance ministries may co-operate to bring the foreign-exchange markets to heel.

The Commerce Department announcement that orders for durable goods in March fell 6.2 per cent, instead of rising slightly as economists had predicted, depressed the dollar more than two pennies to DM1.7430 in heavy New York trading.

Earlier, the German Bund-

esbank unsettled foreign-exchange dealers by leading intervention against the dollar, while European monetary officials indicated that there were strong prospects of an agreement on foreign exchange policy at Sunday's meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors in Washington.

One official said there was general agreement among the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations that the dollar had reached the top of its acceptable trading range. It was therefore likely that the

G7 would issue an "asymmetrical" communiqué on currencies on Sunday, stating that current levels were acceptable, but that a further rise in the dollar would be a source of concern.

The G7 would also signal that it had no objections to a decline in the dollar provided it was not too steep. In the past, this formula has often been used to stop currency markets overshooting in the short term and then gradually to bring about a change in the trend.

The official conceded that philosophical differences among the G7 finance ministers were deeper than they had been for many years, with America emphasising growth and demanding lower interest rates, while Germany, Britain and Canada believed in the primacy of battling inflation.

These disagreements, however, should not prevent the G7 agreeing on exchange-rate policy, he added.

The fall in American orders compared with an 0.3 per cent decline the month before and showed weakness across the whole range of manufacturing industry, including investment goods, transport and defence.

The significance of the figures was underlined by comments from Federal Reserve officials, which cast doubts on the growing assumption that the American economic recovery was about to begin.

Wider deficit fails to move markets

By OUR ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN'S current account deficit widened to £432 million last month from £227 million in February, but most of the increase was due to erratic items, such as aircraft and precious stones.

The visible trade deficit was £392 million, while invisible items, such as tourist receipts, contributed a projected surplus of £500 million in the month.

The February current account deficit had been discounted by most economists as a statistical aberration and yesterday's figures had little impact on sterling or the

financial markets. Economists said the underlying trend suggested a deficit for the year in line with the Treasury's forecast of £5 billion, but several gave warning that the current account could deteriorate sharply from the second half of the year onwards if the recession lifts.

Excluding erratics, the visible trade deficit in March was £1.147 billion, virtually unchanged from February. The value of exports in March was £3.4 billion, 1.5 per cent higher than in February, while imports rose 3.5 per cent to £9.4 billion.

NatWest chief's bleak outlook

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman of National Westminster warned the City in a television interview, that Britain's banks cannot expect any early relief from the massive bad debts they suffered last year.

Lord Alexander was asked if provisions could reach the same level as last year. "That must be a possibility across the banking sector as a whole," he said. Last year, the main four clearing banks set aside £3.88 billion against bad debts.

Lord Alexander of Woodton told shareholders at the bank's annual meeting that National Westminster's profitability is still being hit by heavy debt provisions this year.

The chairman said that the bank had implemented a round of measures to cut costs, but "there will be no immediate improvement in performance." Last year, Natwest's profits before excep-

tional provisions slumped 64 per cent to £304 million, due to heavy bad debt write-off.

Lord Alexander said that the benefits of the cost-reduction programme should begin to flow through in the second half of the year and promised a significant improvement in profits next year and in 1993.

National Westminster was forced to make a £1.15 billion provision against its loan book. A new report to the Securities and Exchange Commission in America shows the bank now has non-performing loans in Britain worth £1.28 billion and a further £1.19 billion abroad, mainly in America. All these are more than 90 days in default.

In his speech, Lord Alexander was optimistic on the future of NatWest Investment Bank. He said the bank, which lost £49 million last year, showed "encouraging signs of improvement", while the equities business, the main

loss-maker, "had met all the significant milestones which we agreed with the business for the first quarter."

Last February, Lord Alexander gave the bank up to two years to return to reasonable profits under threat of closure.

Sir Geoffrey Littler, the new chairman of NatWest Investment Bank, said that the subsidiary had made a small profit in the first quarter.

"We are on the right path," he said, "not only to survival, but profits." Sir Geoffrey said the bank had cut £20 million from its annual costs in the past year, while employee numbers have fallen by 250 to 2,300.

The British and European equities business is profitable, although the American operation is losing money. Sir Geoffrey said that Country NatWest's British equities business had increased its market share to 7 per cent, from a low point of 4 per cent in 1989.



Court followers: Asil Nadir leaves Bow Street Magistrates with some of his fan club

Court allows Nadir to travel

By ANGELA MACKAY

TURKISH-Cypriot supporters of Asil Nadir, the chairman of Polly Peck International who faces £25 million theft and false accounting charges, packed Bow Street magistrates court yesterday to hear variations made to his bail conditions.

Mr Nadir, who was granted record bail of £3.5 million in December, had the stringent conditions varied by chief metropolitan magistrate Sir David Hopkin to allow him to

leave London if he gives three days' notice. He was also given permission to sign on weekly at a West End police station instead of daily.

More than 100 well-wishers, waving banners and placards proclaiming "We love Asil Nadir", applauded Polly Peck's chairman as he emerged from the court.

He climbed into an awaiting car accompanied by his former wife and by his sister, Bilge Nevzat, who chairs No-

ble Rarodon. Mr Nadir was granted leave not to appear at the next hearing, which was set for July 9.

The administrators to Mr Nadir's fresh fruit, hotels and electronics company have been trying to reconstruct the company without selling any of its major assets such as Del Monte Fresh Fruit.

The administrators plan to refloat the company if the major creditors agree at a meeting to be held on May 24.

Leading builder seeks to raise £162m

By MATTHEW BOND

TAYLOR Woodrow, the construction company, is seeking £162 million from its shareholders, to invest in what it sees as growing opportunities in the depressed commercial property and housebuilding markets.

Under the terms of the rights issue, existing shareholders are to be offered one new share for every four they already own. The new shares will be issued at 200p, a 21 per cent discount to yesterday's opening price of 253p. Taylor Woodrow's shares closed 2p lower at 251p, helped by a board commitment "in the absence of unforeseen circumstances" to sustain the total dividend at least at the level of last year's 9.5p.

Peter Drew, the chairman, said the company would not be rushed into buying properties, just because it had raised money. "People have never known Taylor Woodrow to rush. We're not really keen on buying rubbish."

Mr Drew said his initial interest lay in acquiring retail property and indicated that one or two deals might be close to being agreed. "We're not raising money to put in a tea-caddy, we're raising money with some quite clear objectives in mind." He added that these opportunities had presented themselves since the company reported its annual results last month.

In recent years, a significant proportion of Taylor Woodrow's profits have been generated by selling properties from its £650 million property portfolio. In 1989, such sales accounted for £47 million of profit, although last year this fell to £28 million. Mr Drew intends to replenish the stock of investment properties, which could be sold in future years when property values have improved.

"Our shareholders did very well out of the two years of the property boom," Mr Drew said. "It may not be this year, but I do like to think they would get at least another two good years in the future."

In the year to end-December the company reported pre-tax profits of £83.4 million.

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Beazer seeks £250m

By MARTIN WALLER

BEAZER, the debt-stricken construction group, hopes to raise £250 million by floating off a near-half stake in its European business, including Beazer Homes, Britain's fourth largest housebuilder.

Beazer, which expects debts of £770 million by year-end in June, has already sold a stake in its Hong Kong subsidiary, Beazer Asia, but it has denied suggestions it might sell any of its third arm, Beazer US.

John Matthews, deputy chairman, said the company was examining the possibility of obtaining a listing in London for Beazer Europe and offering for sale a proportion of its shares. The aim was to raise £250 million.

The most likely flotation date would be the autumn.

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INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

Chancellor signals shift in measure of inflation

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, signalled a shift in the key measure of inflation used by the government yesterday.

Henceforth, retail price inflation (RPI) less mortgage interest payments would provide the best guide to the underlying rate, he said.

Mr Lamont added he would be paying close attention to surveys of business and consumer confidence for further evidence that "the worst may now be behind us". He was speaking to business leaders at the annual conference of the Institute of Directors at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Speakers repeatedly criticised the government for allowing inflation to resurge.

The Chancellor asserted that underlying inflation was now falling, but said the measure used in the recent past - RPI excluding mortgage interest payments and the community charge - would be meaningless in the coming year. That measure would include the Budget rise in value-added tax, but not community charge.

Since the VAT rise was designed to finance the cut in the community charge, only one element of the switch would be included.

The new measure, he said, would also exclude "short run volatility in the RPI" associated with changes in interest rates. "I am confident that we are on course to meet our inflation objectives, for a sharp and sustained reduction in the underlying as well as the headline rate," he said.

Mr Lamont also reiterated his Budget prediction that a recovery in output would

begin, slowly at first, in the second half of the year.

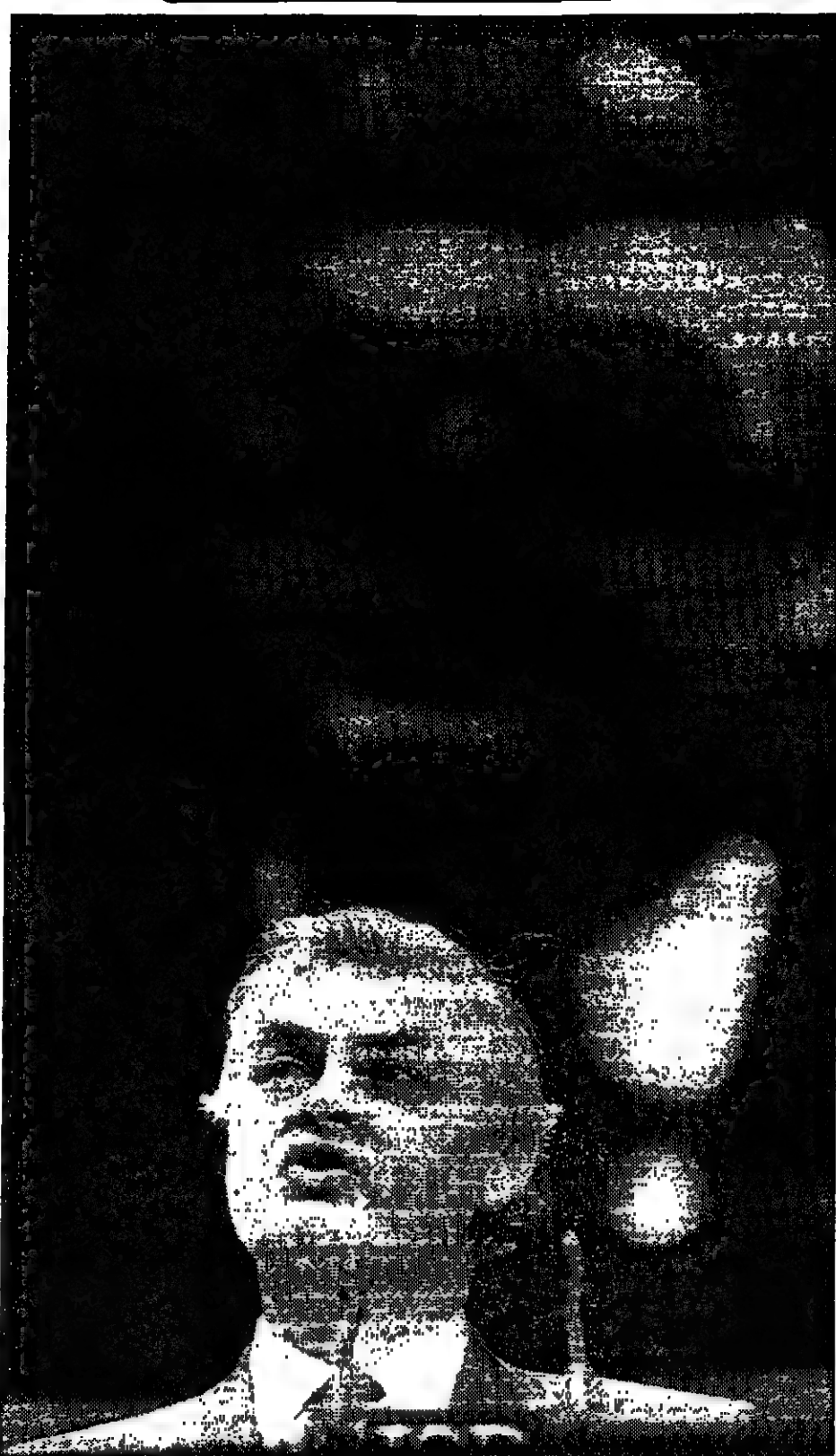
The Chancellor said he was acutely aware many firms were finding the economic climate difficult. However, the Budget cut in corporation tax, improvements in bad debt relief for companies and other measures had been designed to ease the burden.

Mr Lamont acknowledged the need to "learn the lessons of the 1980s" when borrowing and spending surged beyond the supply capacity of the economy. The financial deficit incurred by the corporate side of the economy was only partly triggered by investment. "Some of it also reflected the corporate sector's scramble to buy existing assets, a development that paralleled the personal sector's bidding up of house prices."

He said the government had confounded critics who argued membership of the exchange-rate mechanism would lock the economy into high interest rates. "The recent reduction in interest rates should pave the way for a more general improvement in business optimism." He said responses by businessmen to surveys by the Confederation of British Industry were "if anything a little more optimistic than a few months ago".

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Reports by
WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU,
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT,
AND ROSS TIEMAN,
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT



On the spot: Norman Lamont faces IoD members at the Royal Albert Hall yesterday

De Klerk makes case for foreign investment

F. W. DE KLERK, the South African president and most applauded speaker during the conference, outlined in detail a new economic order for the country, based on a caring market economy whose free-market zest will be mitigated by the need to redistribute wealth to the country's black majority. Mr de Klerk also issued a strong plea for the resumption of business relations with South Africa.

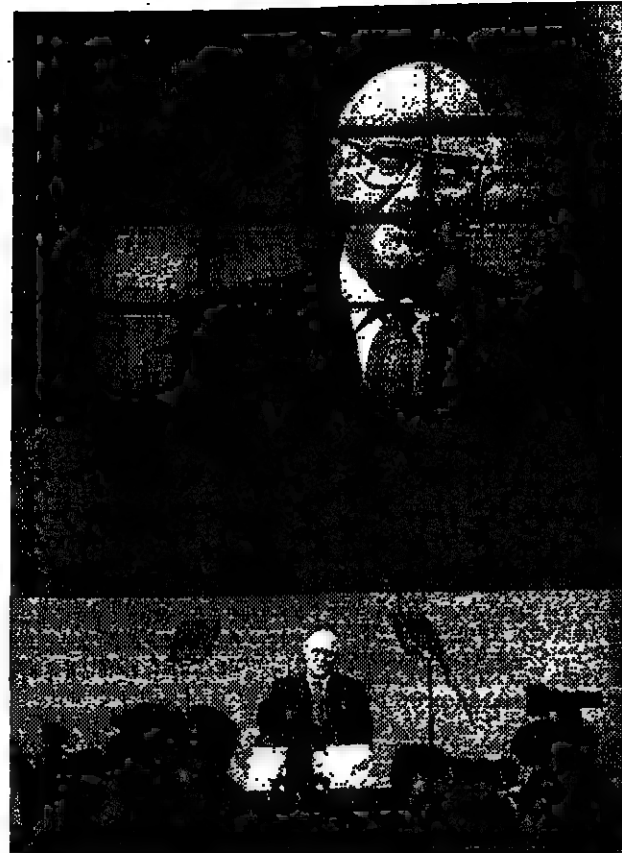
The South African president outlined a policy of strong economic growth, the fight against unemployment and restoration of universal property rights.

He told the conference: "What we need, just like any other developing country, is an inflow of long-term development capital in volumes sufficient to promote and sustain economic growth. Political reform will not in itself ensure such an inflow."

He added that "foreign investors should not be mesmerised by events in Eastern Europe. South Africa has a first-class infrastructure and can call on abundant natural and human resources".

He said: "Economic performance and political stability are of course closely interlinked, and it is therefore imperative that economic policy strike a fine balance between satisfying demands for a redistribution of income, and maintaining an economy capable of generating the funds required for this."

Mr de Klerk pledged his full support for the market system, based on private ownership. However, he acknowledged that the people of South Africa might become impatient in the process. "The demand of the person in the township street is 'I want it now'. While this cry is also heard from the dispossessed elsewhere in the world, it is given greater urgency in South Africa by the perception - right or wrong -



New order: De Klerk envisages a caring market economy

that the disparities in our society are the outcome of the system of apartheid."

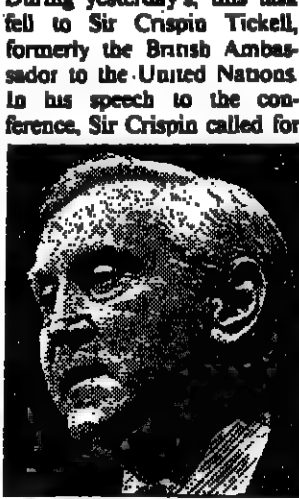
Spending priorities will be rearranged, he said, "in order to direct funds to the areas of greatest privation... Care is however being taken not to damage the job and wealth creating capacity of the modern sector of our economy."

Mr de Klerk added that 38 per cent of central government spending is currently directed at social spending, while education makes up 18 per cent. "This indeed is the premier challenge for the political leadership in the country: the improvement of the quality of life of all the people of South Africa, but with special emphasis on the needs of the less advantaged," he said.

But he also indicated tougher monetary and fiscal policies: "Other elements are phased tax reform and a fiscal and monetary regime aimed at a gradual reduction in inflation, currently running at 14 per cent, to a level comparable with those of our main trading partners."

Call for proper 'green' audits

IT IS a sign of the times that no business conference these days can pass without a reference to the environment. During yesterday's, this task fell to Sir Crispin Tickell, formerly the British Ambassador to the United Nations. In his speech to the conference, Sir Crispin called for



Sir Crispin: social cost

the introduction of proper system of environmental audits to achieve "the full social cost pricing of energy in such a way that the polluter paid".

He added: "The current price of fossil fuels does not include clearing up the mess they make."

Sir Crispin said that only governments can cope with such issues, while "business has to make its own judgments within ground rules set by the government."

"The more it takes account of environmental concerns, the less the government will be tempted to interfere," he said.

He concluded that "people have become rich making a mess over the last two hundred years."

"In my judgment, they could become richer clearing it up over the next two hundred."

French attacked for bucking the free market

THE Institute of Directors has a tradition of causing controversy on the issue of Europe, and this year the criticism was different only in style.

Peter Morgan, the director general of the IoD, took the opportunity to attack a number of EC policies, most notably the Community stance on the Gatt trade talks and the common agricultural policy. He also sharply criticised French government subsidies to industry. "One of the scandals of Europe is the double talk on subsidies," he said. "The Treaty of Rome is a classic free market document. But in practice, its principles have disappeared down the Apollon Way. We are appalled by the recent action of the French government to support Bull, Thompson and Air France with literally billions of francs."

"The French government are supposed to subscribe to the Treaty, but they are pouring money into lame ducks faster than they pour wine into the wine lake. And the French are not alone in this. As our members in the textile and engineering industries keep reminding me, 'We cannot allow nationalised firms to ruin the market for everyone else and then go running back to their governments to bail them out,' he added.

Mr Morgan also launched a sharp attack on the Community's attitude during the Gatt trade talks, which he said could "put our exports at risk".

He went on: "It is difficult to see why we should sacrifice the Gatt for the Cap (common agricultural policy), which on a conservative estimate costs the average UK family nearly £800 a year, aggravates

poverty, disadvantages the Third World, poisons our land and rivers, and disfigures the countryside. We want to see our government taking the lead and not just following the Franco-German line."

However, two of Europe's most prominent businessmen, Robert Horton, chairman and chief executive of British Petroleum, and Peter Wallenberg, the Swedish entrepreneur, emphasised in their speeches the need for Europe to take the lead in world industry.

Mr Horton, stressing a free-market approach, told the conference: "One of the reasons why I am such a firm supporter of Britain's membership of the community, of the creation of a single market, of Britain's membership of the exchange rate mechanism; and in particular of Leon Brittan's work

towards a European competition and merger policy is precisely because I want Europe to lead the world in establishing free markets."

He called on the Community to set "an example in upholding free market principles rather than undermining them". Those principles, he added, were especially important in respect of free trade. "If we are interested in making a reality of free trade, we must ensure that within the Community the free trade Dr Jekylls prevail over the protectionist Mr Hydes," he said.

Dr Wallenberg, who has been a member of the IoD since 1959, called on Europe's industry to make a determined effort to continue the concentration process in order to maintain competitiveness against American and Japanese companies. "Seen from a world market

perspective, top European companies are not often enough global leaders," he said. "In electronics, Siemens ranks five behind three Japanese and one American company. In aerospace, BAC ranks four behind Boeing, United Technologies and McDonnell Douglas." He added that fragmentation was particularly evident in the pharmaceutical industry, which has 56 plants in Europe but only 32 in North America, although the markets are of roughly equal size.

He also warned the conference to take the economic development in east Europe seriously. "East Europe will not only be our own responsibility but it is definitely in our own interest to help substantively in this difficult transition. Otherwise the risks of massive migration are obvious," he said.

Rapid end to Gatt talks is 'essential'

By COLIN NARBROUGH

A RAPID conclusion to the Uruguay round of talks on freer trade is essential to give a confidence boost to the slowing world economy, Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, said.

Addressing the Gatt ruling council in Geneva, he said that there also had to be early movement in the negotiations, now in their fifth year, to reward those economies that have unilaterally reduced barriers to trade.

Finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven leading economies are expected to back Mr Dunkel's call for urgent progress in the Gatt round when they meet in Washington next weekend.

Nicholas Brady, the American treasury secretary, has urged his G7 partners to give priority to growth rather than inflation.

Mr Dunkel said continuing delay in reaching a new Gatt accord had created uncertainty for business at a time when protectionist pressure was mounting and, he added, the world economy was in its third successive year of slow-down.

In the absence of an early agreement, he said there was a danger that liberalisation measures already approved could be reversed.

The Uruguay round failed to meet its original deadline of agreement by the end of last year.

Negotiations restarted in February at an official level, but have since been stalled.

Call for delay in creating European central bank

From GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE creation of a European central bank would be delayed for two years, until 1996, under a proposal now being floated in the negotiations on European monetary union.

The suggestion has been hatched by Luxembourg, currently chairing the talks, in an attempt to bridge the gap between Germany and a group led by France and the European Commission which insists on a strict interpretation of the declarations made by

the Rome summit last autumn. Those documents stipulated that some kind of central monetary institution would start work in 1994.

Germany argues that the central bank should not take over monetary operations until the third and final stage of developing a single currency, which has no fixed date.

Differing interpretations of last year's statement has already led to sharp words between Germany and the

commission. In February, Jacques Delors, the president of the commission, accused the German government of reneging on its commitments to the monetary union timetable.

Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor of Germany, and President Francois Mitterrand of France are due to meet this evening for one of their frequent bilateral summits and issues concerning the European Community are at the top of the agenda.

Tyne Tees defies fall in advertising

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

TYNE Tees Television, which holds one of the most sought-after television franchises in the forthcoming government auction, managed to increase its trading profits last year by 3 per cent to £7.1 million. The increase defied the industry trend, in spite of lower advertising revenues, which cut turnover by 10 per cent to £61.7 million.

After an increase in the exchange rate to £2.8 million (£1.8 million) and lower investment income, pre-tax profit fell 19 per cent to £5.78 million. The dividend is maintained at 19p per share from earnings down from 44.1p to 36.2p.

Costs of applying for a new television licence have been written off as a £1.7 million extraordinary item net of tax.

Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, chairman, said the advertising trend was worse than last year. Tyne Tees has welcomed the 19 per cent stake taken in February by Yorkshire Television, and hopes for benefits in marketing services from a Yorkshire subsidiary.

Oliver incurs loss

OLIVER Resources, the Irish oil explorer, has announced a pre-tax loss of £1780.338

previous 12-month period. Again, there is no dividend. Four exploration wells are

McCarthy & Stone loses £6m

By MATTHEW BOND

LOSSES at McCarthy & Stone, the specialist builder of retirement homes, have continued, as the housing market in many parts of the country continues in deep recession.

In the six months to end-February, the company made a pre-tax loss of £5.4 million (£5.7 million loss). In the first half, the company sold 404 units, virtually unchanged on the year before.

John McCarthy, chairman, said he was not expecting a significant recovery in trading until the second half of the next financial year, and that falls in interest rates to date have not yet restored consumer confidence.

"We look to a recovery in demand in the 1991-92 period."

Doctus shares fall on profit warning

By JONATHAN PRYNN

SHARES in Doctus, the management consultancy group, fell 8p to 39p when the company issued a profits warning for the current year and announced that the roles of chairman and chief executive had been split.

The company's statement said that profits this year would be less than analysts' forecasts of about £13 million because a number of client orders had been cancelled or delayed since the forecasts

were published. The company said profits for the six months to end-March and for the full year to end-September are likely to be lower than last year. Doctus had pre-tax profits of £11.4 million last year.

Brian Blake, the chairman, who was criticised by shareholders for his doubled salary, is stepping down as chief executive, to be replaced by Alan Greenough. A non-executive deputy chairman will be appointed soon.

National Westminster Bank

NatWest announces that with effect from Wednesday 1 May 1991 its Gold Plus overdraft rates will be amended as follows: borrowing up to and including £10,000 reduced from 15.5% to 15% p.a. Unauthorised borrowing over £10,000 remains unchanged at 22.5% p.a.

Frank keeps lions at bay

FRANK Warren, one of Britain's most colourful promoters, has signed a £20 million deal to sell the London Arena to "an international company" on a leaseback arrangement. Warren, chairman of the Arena, has spent eight months putting together the deal, which may go a long way to putting the Docklands venue on a sound financial footing. He will not confirm the buyer's identity, saying only it represents "Scandinavian interests". But he claims it is the Occidental Petroleum Fund. "The deal has secured the future of the London Arena and we hope to complete within the next 28 days," says Warren, who has been asked to stay as consultant, but has yet to make up his mind.

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Directors lost on the Appian Way

COMMENT

It is true, Norman Lamont might have said, had he waited at the Institute of Directors conference to hear the withering attack on government economic policy from Peter Morgan, the institute's director, backed up by Robert Horton, chairman of BP. Last time, the government was in deep trouble a decade ago, the CBI used to moan and vacillate and offer bare knuckle fights. The institute, consciously acting as an antidote to a mainstream employers' organisation dominated by manufacturers, stood steadfast behind Mrs Thatcher then, under the unrewarded leadership of Walter Goldsmith.

These days, the CBI has been put under "reliable" leadership, has marginalised the pesky manufacturers and espouses economic policies barely distinguishable from those of the post-Thatcher government. Since these are somewhat different from what was on offer ten years ago, the IoD has become the critic, linking recent economic failure with departure from principle. In government terms, Mr Morgan is an honourable

man, but with an election on the way, such men are dangerous.

The government cannot escape blame for the return of significant inflation and the unexpectedly steep recession needed to stop it through monetary policy. The question is whether this was caused by a tactical mistake in economic management or by fundamental deficiencies of policy.

The established view points the finger at Nigel Lawson for lax monetary policy after the October 1987 stock market crash or, more correctly, from engineering the pre-election boom through tax cuts in the 1987 Budget that left him unable to make the correct response to the threats posed by the crash seven months later without taking a huge risk. If Mr Morgan and Mr Horton think that, there is not much point in them attacking a government that has gone the whole way to correct its mistake by recasting the framework of anti-inflation-

ary policy and should soon taste some success for its efforts.

If, as appears, the IoD spotted a deeper failure, that surely stemmed from the original policy. The economic miracle was flawed. Industry became much leaner after 1981, but did not invest early enough against a background of high interest rates to be fit to cope with steadily increasing demand. The boom could only be met through more labour, diminishing productivity returns and higher pay settlements.

To avoid a repeat of that disappointment, the government will in future have to be much more cautious in fiscal policy regardless of how successfully it controlled public spending. In Mr Morgan's terms, there is surely some difference in these terms between Labour and

Conservative policy.

Mr Horton's American prescription has not notably worked on its home ground, where stagnant productivity and capital spending hold the economy back. Mr Morgan is on surer ground in attacking the trend of European Community policy. As he rightly said, the free market spirit of the Treaty of Rome has been hijacked on the Appian Way. Any free market is to be strictly internal and Jacques Delors is busy organising secret cartels that can prosper behind a corporatist wall.

Having surrendered trade policies to Brussels, the government has been too willing to accept the comforts of continental protectionism. In theory, Britain could renew its determination to break down monopolies and market re-

strictions at home on sound economic principles. Against such a Community background, the risks to British industry would be enormous and the benefits to consumers still limited.

Honest Mips

The Chancellor is at least an honest man. To pin his colours to a single measure of "underlying inflation", as he did in yesterday's IoD speech, was even courageous after years of vacillation on this issue, beginning with Sir Geoffrey Howe's universally ignored Tax and Prices Index. His chosen indicator — the retail prices index excluding mortgage interest payments — was also refreshingly honest. The "RPI ex Mips" may be a mouthful, but it comes close to making economic sense. In the longer run, an element for the capital value of housing would

have to be considered, but given the expected stagnation in house prices this may not matter in the next year or so.

Honesty is one thing, manipulating markets and winning elections is something else. Next month, the latest headline inflation rate of 8.2 per cent will drop by at least two full points to about 6 per cent, as John Major boasted to the Commons yesterday.

However, the RPI ex Mips, which was 8.2 per cent last month, will fall by only 1.3 points, as a result of the last two years' changes in Budget duties, VAT and poll tax. Worse still, future cuts in mortgage rates will reduce the headline rate, but will not help with "underlying inflation".

Instead, the VAT hike, which looks like being spread over several months, may actually force underlying inflation up through the summer. Two daunting conclusions seem to follow — the Treasury will have even less interest in future in pushing down interest rates; and a 1991 election may be impossible, even in October.

Car makers fire on all cylinders in fight against crippling taxes

NORMAN Lamont will today face the pent-up frustration of the heads of Britain's four biggest car makers, which may suffer the loss of almost £1 billion in sales after the Budget.

It is thought to be the first time that a Chancellor has met a group of individual chairmen and managing directors so ready to vent their anger over government policies.

The four say they are not asking for special help for their problems from a Chancellor charged with curing the chronic disease of inflation, simply that the industry is treated in the same way as every other.

Motor manufacturers have suffered in silence for a decade from the repeated plunderings of chancellors who have seen the industry, which contributes £20 billion a year to the Treasury, as an easy target for taxation.

Mr Lamont has turned out to be no different, in spite of warnings that car sales in the United Kingdom were plummeting under the strain of high interest rates and the drop in orders for company vehicles.

The Chancellor told the Commons in his Budget speech that the success of British car makers, particularly in export sales, justified adding another 20 per cent to personal taxation on company cars and making employers pay national insurance contributions on each company car they provide.

In addition, fuel prices rose 15 per cent, while value-added tax was increased to 17.5 per cent.

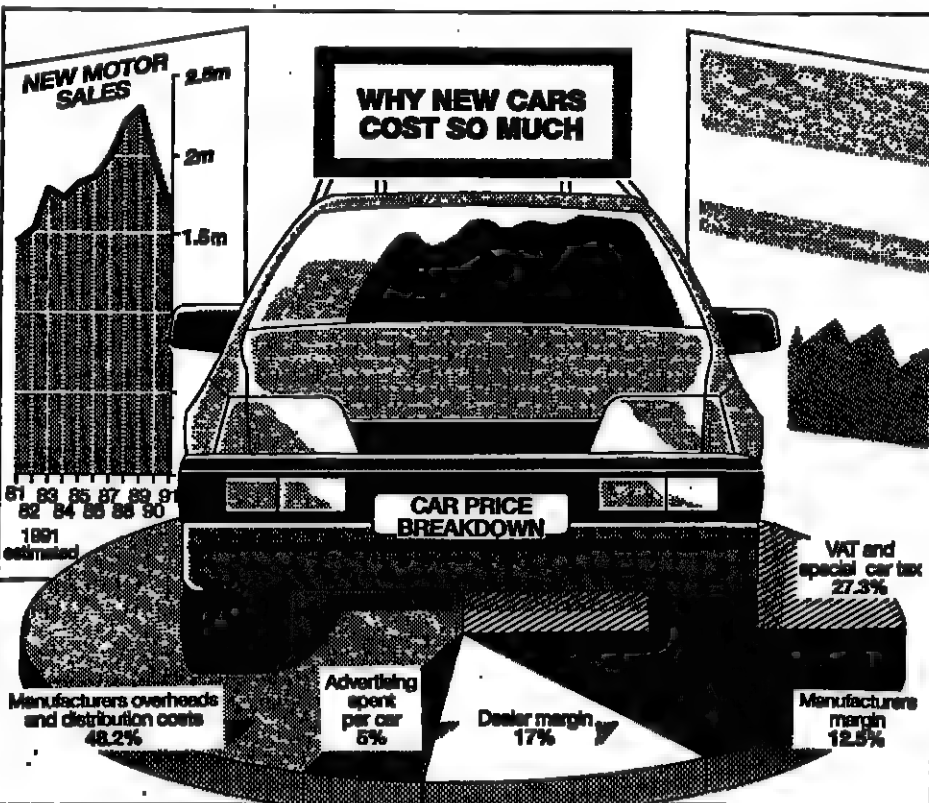
But the four car chiefs — George Simpson of Rover, Geoffrey Whalen of Peugeot Talbot, Paul Tosch of Vauxhall and Derek Barron of Ford — will tell Mr Lamont that his seemingly blinkered optimism over the industry is hopelessly misplaced.

Exports will be not enough to shore up the huge losses in sales in a United Kingdom market, which, they claim, is one of the most heavily taxed in Europe.

The buyer of a new car pays 27.3 per cent of the showroom price to the Treasury in tax, about £2,700 on the typical £10,000 family car, compared with 22 per cent in France and just 14 per cent in Germany. Of the 27.3 per cent, 10 per cent comes from a special car tax, the only extra tax levied on retail goods in the United Kingdom and the only one of its type thought to exist in Europe.

The car makers say abolishing the special car tax would stimulate desperately needed showroom interest and that the Chancellor could probably now afford to lose the £1.6 billion it brings in annually.

The industry estimates Mr Lamont's Budget measures will be worth £1.2 billion annually and extra showroom sales would mean extra income via VAT payments.



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If Mr Lamont refuses to abolish the tax, the industry has given warning that there could be more of the same misery that has cost jobs and profits this year.

Ford is seeking 1,000 job losses at Halewood, Jaguar

more than 1,000 at Coventry and Peugeot Talbot 350 at Ryton, Coventry, on top of the 350 lost at the end of last year.

Factories at Ford, Jaguar and Peugeot have all been on short-time working for the first time since the early Eighties to cut stocks and output levels.

First quarter sales of new cars, at 456,730, are 21.6 per cent below the January to March figure of last year, while sales so far this month have dropped by a third and show few signs of recovery.

It is forecast that sales this year will be down to 1.7 million, the lowest since 1982 and 600,000 down on the 1989 record.

As many as 100,000 sales will be wiped out because of the increases in value-added tax and company car tax.

Output for export this year is up by a remarkable 91.4 per cent on the year, but total production fell in March for the first time since last July, and with key European markets slowing down, there will be no

sanctuary for some motor manufacturers.

If Mr Lamont needs a graphic warning as to the problems faced by the industry, it could come from Mr Barron, chairman of the United Kingdom's biggest car producer.

Ford exports relatively few fully-built cars from Britain and relies to a large extent on company car sales to take its home-manufactured Escorts and Fiestas.

After a bad 1990, sales have continued to crumble this year, despite a huge marketing effort, with first quarter sales down from nearly 81,000 cars to fewer than 66,000.

Particular worries have centred on the future of Halewood, Merseyside, where Ford invested £600 million for assembly of the new Escort range.

Halewood is capable of manufacturing 1,100 Escorts every day; sales in March were just over 10,000.

KEVIN EASON
Motoring Correspondent

Taylor Woodrow builds concern

TAYLOR Woodrow is primarily a construction company. Therefore, there are grounds for concern when it announces plans to raise £162 million to invest mainly in commercial property and housebuilding.

Only a few weeks ago, it was those areas that Costain, a similar sort of company, said it would be avoiding after it raised £77 million through a rights issue. Clearly, Peter Drew, chairman of Taylor Woodrow, sees something that Peter Costain, chief executive of Costain, does not. But, what is it?

Certainly, there are few clues provided by the commercial property sector, in which leading players, by and large, are conspicuous by their lack of buying activity. Many feel that commercial property is undergoing a radical restructuring and could remain depressed long after the rest of the economy has recovered.

However, Mr Drew is familiar with property's problems. Last month's results showed that the value of Taylor Woodrow's investment portfolio fell by a fifth as yields eased.

Profits from property disposals fell from £47 million to £28 million last year, but were still a significant proportion of pre-tax profits of £83.4 million. With the prospects for construction and housebuilding far from encouraging, the pressure for these property profits to be sustained is great — hence the one-for-four rights issue.

At 200p, the new shares have been priced on a discount to existing shareholders are unlikely to turn down. At a theoretical ex-rights price of 242p, the shares are on an adjusted price/earnings multiple of more than 16, which should deter new buying.

Tarmac

THE absence of a rights issue from Tarmac, which had been rumoured, and maintenance of the dividend, which was never really in doubt, did little to appease a market dismayed at the effect of some horrific housebuilding results.

Tarmac, which has issued \$300 million of Auction Market Preferred Stock (AMPS) and £107.5 million of convertible capital bonds in recent



Seeking £162 million: Peter Drew of Taylor Woodrow

months, believes a rights offer would have been opportunistic, and is choosing instead to keep its balance sheet in shape by reducing its commitment to housing this year by £100 million, and by selling off perhaps £50 million of peripheral businesses.

As a result, gearing, only 26 per cent at the year-end, (but almost 40 per cent if the AMPS is included as debt), is expected to slip below 20 per cent by December.

Just as well, given that the trading outlook continues to look so gloomy. Poor weather in February compounded the recessionary problems, and is forcing followers to wonder whether Tarmac can improve much on last year's pre-tax £190.7 million, if at all.

Financing the AMPS and the new bonds issued last month will eat into trading profits, which means an unchanged dividend may be covered even more thinly than the

1.5 accorded last year's payment. At 225p the shares are selling on a prospective earnings multiple of more than 14. Too soon to buy for recovery.

Cannon Street

LONG-STANDING investors in Cannon Street Investments have a right to feel aggrieved by the company's latest rights issue.

Four years ago they were asked to subscribe to new shares at 330p each to fund the mini-conglomerate's rapid expansion. In 1988, Cannon Street returned with another cash call, this time at 240p.

Later that year, the company returned to the market to float Betacom, which has since plunged into losses, and the shares, offered at 82p, have slid to 17p.

Cannon Street is issuing 25.7 million ordinary shares at 90p each and 25.7 million convertible preference shares to raise £46.7 million after expenses. The group clearly needs the cash. Since 1989, it has spent £83 million on acquisitions and developing its four leisure sites. Borrowings have risen to £107 million and pushed gearing to more than 400 per cent. The new capital will cut this to 81 per cent. The company has also tried to please investors by making the terms of the convertible issue particularly attractive with a gross yield of 13 per cent.

Cannon Street's results for last year do not make comfortable reading. Pre-tax profits fell 35 per cent to £17.3 million, while the final dividend is being held at 5.5p. Earnings per share of 17.2p are 5 per cent lower than in 1987. Investors should question whether to back Cannon Street's record with more of their hard-earned cash.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

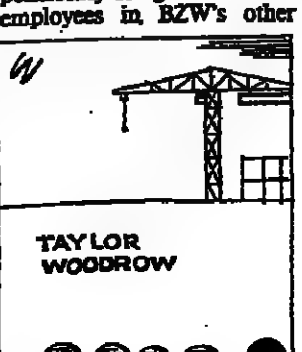
Frank keeps lions at bay

FRANK Warren, one of Britain's most colourful promoters, has signed a £20 million deal to sell the London Arena to "an international company" on a leaseback arrangement. Warren, chairman of the Arena, has spent eight months putting together the deal, which may go a long way to putting the Docklands venue on a sound financial footing. He will not confirm the buyer's identity, saying the deal represents "Scandinavian interests", but dinavian interests, but sources close to the Arena claim it is the Occidental Petroleum Pension Fund. "The deal has secured the future of the London Arena and we hope to complete within the next 28 days," says Warren, who has been asked to stay as consultant, but has yet to make up his mind.

Back office blues

TALES of job-losses in the Square Mile have become so familiar that any change is welcome — especially when it relates to Wall Street. The

latest focus of attention is Barclays de Zoete Wedd which yesterday announced it is to close part of its equities operations in America with the loss of 60 jobs. The staff, most of whom work in New York covering research, sales and support activities, are to go after a review of costs led by Jonathan Davis, chief executive of BZW's equities division. "It was a question of taking a hard look at the global equities operation and biting the bullet where America was concerned," says BZW.



"Me? I'm a one for four rights offer."

Wall Street activities, including a Treasury bond dealership and capital markets, swaps and mergers and acquisitions operations, will not be affected. Kent Logan, one of the firm's high-powered recruits across the Atlantic, has kept his place as chief executive of the American equities division. "It was a question of taking a hard look at the global equities operation and biting the bullet where America was concerned," says BZW.

IN AMERICA, according to Fortune magazine, the cost of a pair of Levi jeans has increased by 61 per cent in the last 20 years, a first class stamp by 45 per cent and a one-ounce bar of Hershey chocolate by 8 per cent. However, over the same period the price of a pound of salmon has fallen by 11 per cent, a pound of sirloin steak went down by 25 per cent and a half gallon of milk dropped by 29 per cent.

Run out

THE excitement of the ADT London Marathon over the weekend somewhat overshadowed the finale of the British Open Squash championship.

One of the stars — winning the over-55 group after a four-year absence — was Jeremy Lyon, a senior UK institutional equity salesman at James Capel. Lyon, who captained the England squash team from 1963 to 1970, was forced to retire prematurely for the simple reason that there was no category for entrants between 50 and 55. "I play squash in the winter and tennis in the summer," says Lyon, who is a true Capel's man — joining the firm 22 years ago after a brief spell as a farmer near Colchester. "I enjoy sport since it stops you eating and drinking too much — an occupational hazard in the City these days." Most of the games were played at Lambie Squash Club in Chiswell Street, just over the road from The Brewery, where Capel seems to hold most of its seminars.

Star-spangled

KNOWN for his colourful dress sense, Dickie "Tio Pepe" Moore — one of the few remaining City characters still regarded as a legend in his own lunch-time — has, he discloses, more than 30 suits hanging in the wardrobe of his

Leigh, Essex, home. Moore, aged 46, and head of market making at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull, admits that most of the suits have either exceptionally spivvy chalk stripes or have gold or silver stars woven into their fabric. "I went along to choose my first suit after a particularly heavy night, about 20 years ago, and I think I must have still been drunk," he says. "When I went back for a fitting I suddenly realised that the fabric had stars in it. But then I thought: what the hell. Nowadays, if I handed one of my suits to someone else to wear it would provoke quite a reaction, but when I wear them it's just accepted as normal." Moore insists that apart from being a slightly eccentric extravaganza, his suits have, in the past, actually been good for business. "When I got my first star-spangled suit it was in the days of the stock market floor," he says, "and within five minutes, there were so many people around my pitch that people thought that there must have been a new issue."

JON ASHWORTH

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After the victory, Kuwait pays the price

Kuwait is free, but the work of rebuilding it has barely begun. Jamie Dettmer reports on the visions and divisions

The Regency Palace was once the most imposing hotel in Kuwait City. In its restaurants and public rooms, which overlook the bay, foreign and finance ministers, western oil millionaires and company presidents struck their deals. From a distance, the hotel seems untouched by the devastation of the Gulf war. But once you get closer you realise there will be no guests here for a long time. The outside walls are intact, but they enclose a heap of charred rubble, the result of Iraqi arson.

As with the hotel, so with Kuwait. The emirate that was built from 18th century seafaring, 19th century pearling, early 20th century gold smuggling and late 20th century oil extraction, has had the guts ripped out of it. In the first few days after liberation, it was the damage to the emirate's infrastructure, buildings and environment that caught the eye. Wherever you went in Kuwait City there was a smell of burning. Scorch marks blackened downtown blocks of flats and offices. Damaged Soviet-made tanks and imported western cars were strewn across roads.

Kuwait is still haemorrhaging its financial lifeblood. Dense black smoke from oilfield fires fills the air. It is hard to tell day from night in the town of Ahmadi, which is in the middle of the al-Maqwa oilfield. Kuwait City is frequently affected by the oil fire cloud. When it rains the water droplets are black. Eighteen oil well fires have been put out, but nearly 600 are still gushing flames and smoke. The Kuwaiti government and the fire fighting companies, led by Red Adair, have been arguing in the last few days about the pace of extinguishing the flames. The American companies believe it could take up to two years to put out all the oil fires. The government insists that this should be done within seven months, and has appealed for help from other countries.

Most of the damage inflicted on the city and the oilfields came in the last few days and hours of the occupation, in a wave of spiteful



Freedom day: (left) resistance fighters fly the flag of victory on an abandoned Iraqi armoured vehicle, but (right) a young boy with his father watches his future burning

vengeance and vandalism by the Iraqis.

But is the damage inflicted on the emirate of a material kind only? Some opposition politicians, pressing for democratic reform, are worried that Iraq may have dealt a more spiritual blow, and claim the spirit of Saddam Hussein will continue to haunt the emirate and linger in the hearts of Kuwaitis. They argue that the brutal and violent political culture of Iraq may have spawned adherents in Kuwait.

In recent weeks, there has been a breakdown in law and order. It is possible there have been more rapes of foreign women — Filipinos, Indians and Sri Lankans — in Kuwait since the liberation than during the Iraqi occupation. In residential districts in the city, well away from international businesses in downtown hotels, nighttime gun battles involving Kuwaitis, Palestinians and Shia Muslims are common.

Many of the 200,000 or so Palestinians who did not flee from the Iraqis also believe the nature of

the emirate has changed. Within hours of the liberation, Palestinians, many of whom had been born in Kuwait, were picked up at random off the streets and at the dozens of vehicle checkpoints that sprouted throughout the city. In the next weeks thousands of Palestinians were seized, beaten up and tortured.

Members of the ruling al-Sabah family are allegedly implicated in some of the violence against Palestinians. A new, disturbing phase in what at times appears an institutional campaign against the Palestinians came earlier this month when seven prominent Palestinians were murdered by what many diplomats here describe as "death squads". No arrests have yet been made.

Last week, secret government figures on dead, detained and missing Palestinians were leaked to *The Times*. The figure suggested that more than 2,000 Palestinian men and 28 women were still in detention by mid-April, 172 men

had been killed and 300 were missing. According to international human rights agencies, it is likely that the figures for the dead and missing are underestimates.

The Kuwaitis say that Palestinians collaborated with the Iraqis. Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, backed Saddam Hussein. They claim Palestinians did ter

'Rubbish piles up in front of middle-class homes because there is no longer a servant to burn it'

rible things during the occupation, raping Kuwaiti girls, betraying resistance members and Kuwaiti soldiers.

There is much evidence that most Palestinians in Kuwait were against the Iraqis, some joined resistance groups, some helped distribute much-needed



supplies and money. Many, like most Kuwaitis, kept their heads down.

The hatred harboured by Kuwaitis for Palestinians now threatens the basis of a society that was built on Arabic and non-Arabic immigrant labour. Palestinians first came in large numbers to Kuwait in 1948. They have been coming ever since, from Israel, Lebanon and Jordan, escaping violence, hoping for wealth or at least security. They were not the first foreigners to appear in large numbers; Indians and Pakistanis came before them. Filipinos are the latest nationals to find work in the emirate.

The foreigners have not been allowed to play a part in the political processes of the emirate, nor do they qualify for full access to what was once the most complete welfare system in the world. A few have been allowed, after decades of service, to take out Kuwaiti citizenship. The difficulty has come with the Palestinians and other Arab mi-

grants, who have slowly swamped Kuwait and given birth in the emirate to sons and daughters who look upon the country as their home. In the past few years, Kuwait's ruling al-Sabah family has become anxious that non-Kuwaiti Arabs would slowly make the country their own and change it.

Ministers now talk openly of wanting to kick out all Palestinians, and they are keen to cut the population significantly. There is talk of reducing it from the pre-invasion figure of more than two million to perhaps 1.2 million. What seems certain is that the 200,000 Palestinians who left the emirate during the occupation will not be allowed to return.

Wiser heads in government are aware that the other 200,000 Palestinians who did not flee from the emirate during the occupation will be needed to help restore the economy. A mass expulsion is unlikely, therefore. But it seems clear that with a reduction in population employment patterns will be restructured. Plans are

already afoot to bring in new labour from the Indian sub-continent on short-term contracts and to reduce public sector employment by up to half.

The aim is a more even balance of foreign workers and Kuwaitis in public sector jobs. A significant reduction in population would also have the knock-on effect of cutting down on the services and buildings that have to be restored.

Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, the emir, and Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, the crown prince, have promised the return of a formal parliamentary democracy, but how tolerant will this new Kuwait be with its own citizens? Some liberal opposition politicians, such as Hamad al-Jawal, worry that the intolerance shown towards non-Kuwaitis could be turned on Kuwaiti dissidents.

He has had recent experience of political violence. Within a few days of liberation, a gunman shot him in front of his three-year-old daughter. Now paralysed from the waist down, he expresses the dangers of allowing military irregulars to run around with impunity.

Kuwait City has taken few steps through its own efforts to start the process of rebuilding. The most active people in Kuwait are British and American engineers, who have collected well over a million pieces of unexploded ordnance and worked hard to restore power and water supplies.

Many Kuwaitis have refrained from getting their hands dirty. Rubbish piles up in front of middle-class homes because there is no longer a Filipino servant to burn it. At times it appears as though there is no government. No minister has got to grips with the breakdown of law and order. Rebuilding plans are in chaos, with one ministry not knowing what the other is doing. The al-Sabah family is split about how far democratic reform should go.

Opposition groups are long on chat, but short on initiative. There is growing tension between those Kuwaitis who remained during the occupation and those who chose exile, with the former more keen on the emirate changing.

Since liberation more Kuwaitis have left than have returned. The failure of Kuwaitis to come back in large numbers means that the private sector has not even started the process of rebuilding itself. One or two wealthy businessmen are considering not involving themselves in reconstructing Kuwait, but concentrating on their investments and property abroad.

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Family firm: despite a government reshuffle, the crown prince, Sheikh Saad al-Abdallah al-Sabah (above) remains in post as prime minister

Veneer on family cabinet

Abdul Aziz Sultan, chairman of the Gulf Bank, is one of the new breed of independent political figures in Kuwait to emerge from the trauma of the Iraqi invasion and occupation. Educated in the United States, he has adopted as much as possible western manners and ideas, and is eager to see democracy revived and widened.

He is one of hundreds of world-travelled professionals who believe that Kuwait can grow into full statehood only if the ruling al-Sabah family takes a back seat. Like many middle-class Kuwaitis, he became politicised by living through the Iraqi occupation. Competence is his touchstone, and the main thrust of his criticism of Kuwait's rulers is that the al-Sabahs have been incompetent, particularly in exploiting the full economic potential of the emirate.

"The main dilemma is: do the al-Sabahs and other ruling families in the Gulf still look upon the country as their personal property?" he says.

Two months after the liberation of Kuwait the central political question remains: will the al-Sabah family relax its grip on power and give in gracefully to demands for the revival of democracy?

The rejigged government remains dominated by the al-Sabahs. Can it survive? Jamie Dettmer asks

The appointment of a new government earlier this week had all the makings of a company boardroom reshuffle rather than the beginnings of a novel departure. The chairman and chief executive, the emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, and the crown prince, Sheikh Saad al-Abdallah al-Sabah, remained in place. Two senior executives were thrown to the wolves in an effort to divert the pack.

The dropping of Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, the third most senior member of the family, from his dual post of deputy prime minister and foreign secretary, and the removal of Ali al-Abdallah al-Sabah as finance minister, were the only signs that the ruling family wish to go some way to placate the growing demands for political change.

Two new al-Sabahs were included in the cabinet to bring the family strength up to five, only two short of the number in the previous cabinet. Opposition demands for a government of national salvation went

unheeded. Only one or two of the seven political factions that form the mainstream of the opposition were approached to see if they could be enticed into low-ranking positions in government. The new cabinet has no opposition figure and no resistance leader, not even a prominent "insider", one of those who remained in Kuwait during the occupation.

Few doubt that elections, promised by the emir, will take place eventually and that the national assembly, suspended in 1986, will be revived. Opposition worries centre on when the poll will be called and whether the al-Sabah family will agree to the widening of the franchise to bring in women, let alone naturalised Kuwaiti citizens.

The other big question is whether the al-Sabahs will take a back seat even when the assembly has been revived. The assembly cannot, for example, sack a minister. It can call for a minister's dismissal, but the

emir will do so only if the crown prince recommends it. If the assembly becomes annoying, will the al-Sabahs suspend it again? In 1986 the assembly was suspended partly because of a wave of Iranian-inspired Shia Muslim activity which nearly left the emir dead and oil production halted. The other, and possibly main, reason was that politicians were closing in on allegedly al-Sabah links to a devastating and embarrassing collapse of the *souk-al-manakh*, the unofficial stock exchange. How would the al-Sabahs act towards the assembly if the family's good name was in danger?

Generally, Kuwaitis who left the emirate during the occupation have less strong feelings about change than those who remained. The insiders who stayed show signs of wanting to do things for themselves.

Before the August invasion, Kuwaitis on the whole seemed content to enjoy the fruits of the oil wealth bestowed on the emirate without participating politically. For the Kuwaiti-born, life was easy - house, job and a complete welfare system. Do the Kuwaitis just want to go back to that? Insiders say no, but those who did not experience the occupation, seem to desire a return to the easy life.

Scars of war will take years to heal

The nation has been ravaged by warfare, looting and vandalism

During the last days of the occupation of Kuwait, Iraqi soldiers began a campaign of sabotage designed to cripple civilian infrastructure and to wreck virtually every large public and private building in the country. The speed of the ground war stopped them completing the job, but before the order to retreat was given buildings were set alight and power stations, desalination plants and telecommunications centres were disabled.

The sabotage came after seven months of systematic looting in which goods of every conceivable nature were taken to Iraq. Offices and shops were emptied, universities and libraries stripped.

Today, most of the city has electricity, and water is intermittently available. But the reconstruction operation appears to be moving excruciatingly slowly. Many in Kuwait are asking how it is to be achieved with ministries and companies in some cases struggling to operate with a tenth of their original staff.

Inside Kuwait City, where most of the pre-war population lived, structural damage appears slight. But behind intact exteriors is evidence of looting and vandalism which will take years to remedy.

British power and water companies have arrived in Kuwait to press Dr Hamoud al-Rogha, the former minister for electricity and water, and Ahmed al-Adani, his successor, for reconstruction work.

Dr al-Rogha has said that damaged power plants at Shuwaikh and Shuaiba on the Gulf coast will probably be scrapped. Before the war, Kuwait was capable of producing 50 per cent more power than the national demand and, if plans to reduce the population to 1.2 million are carried through, the plants will not be needed.

Engineers from British Electricity International, National Power's overseas division, are now running power stations at Doha and Az Zour, which received light bomb and sabotage damage. The departure of Palestinians and Jordanians had left a shortage of skilled labour and middle management and it was BEI staff,

lives for years to come. Additionally, the country's entire road network will need resurfacing after being worn down by tank traffic, and some 85 electricity substations will have to be demolished.

Damage assessment teams from the US Corps of Engineers have assessed more than 160 government buildings. They say half of these were vandalised, 20 per cent escaped with light damage and another 30 per cent were scarred by fire and smoke.

Those worst hit include the Bayan palace, a conference centre, the national assembly building and the ministry of planning. Among privately owned buildings damaged and looted are the crown prince's palace, the emir's Dasman palace, two museums, the university, shopping centres and the Marmot, Sheraton and Meridian hotels.

Private houses considered to be strategically positioned were converted into gun emplacements. And on the sea front miles of trenches built from bricks ripped from pavements will have to be removed, as will thousands of metal spikes, mines and rolls of razor-edged wire.

RICHARD WATSON
The author writes for New Civil Engineer. A special supplement, price £20, will be published jointly by New Builder and New Civil Engineer tomorrow.



Mohammad Carsym at his destroyed jewellery shop

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Kuwait is likely to lose 2 per cent of its oil-producing capacity in the fight to cap the wells, Shakh Otaqui says

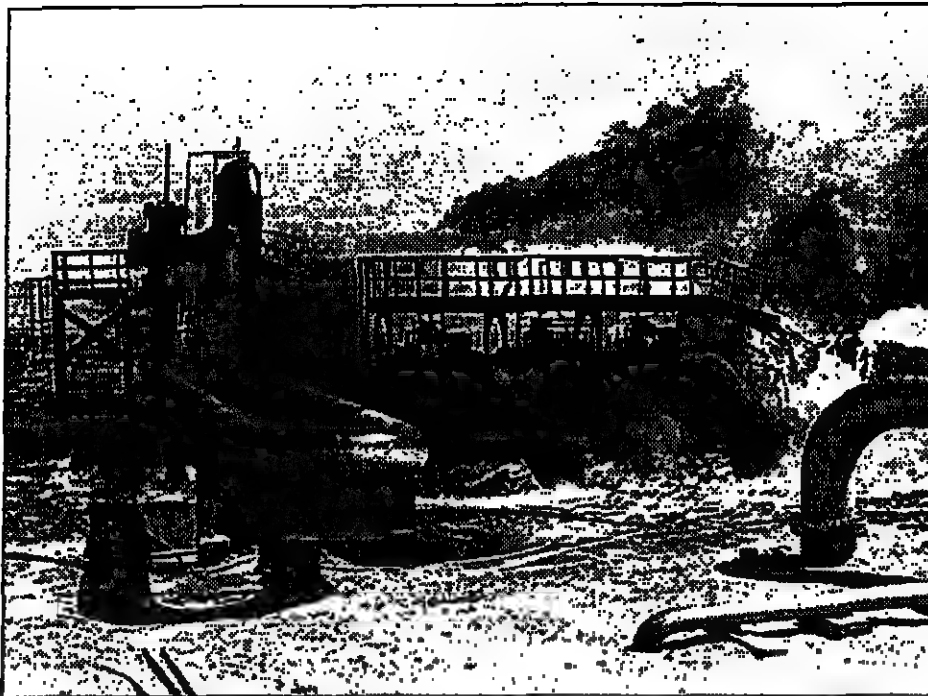
The fires now raging in Kuwait's oil fields are consuming about six million barrels a day (b/d) of the country's oil reserves. This is double the peak production of three million b/d in 1979 and four times output on the eve of the Iraqi invasion last year.

Even on the most pessimistic estimates of the time needed to extinguish the fires, only 2-3 per cent of Kuwait's proven reserves of about 100 billion barrels will be consumed by the fires. However, the uncontrolled flow of oil from burning or uncapped wells now looks likely to damage the reservoirs. This may reduce recoverable reserves, or at least significantly raise the cost of oil production; it could do both.

Progress in extinguishing the fires has been slow, hampered by lack of water and by bureaucratic delays in getting necessary heavy equipment over the Saudi-Kuwait border. The three American and one Canadian companies so far engaged to fight the fires are fully stretched - never before have they had to fight 600 or more well fires.

By mid-April, only two burning wells had been extinguished, and another 23 gushing but non-burning wells capped. Rashid al-Amiri, the former oil minister, has expressed impatience at the slow progress of the work, which was then estimated to need 18 to 24 months to complete. In a press conference notable for alternate praise and blame for the North American companies already on the spot, he said that the government hoped to cut this period to seven months by engaging fire-fighting experts from elsewhere in the world.

This plan may be over-optimistic, since it is esti-



Slow progress: the task of extinguishing the 600 oil installation fires is long and difficult

imated that about 80 per cent of the world's fire-fighting capacity is already engaged in Kuwait. The teams from China, France, Germany and Iran with whom Mr al-Amiri said negotiations are under way will hardly make a significant addition to the effort.

The European commission has approved a £11.6 million package to help Kuwait cope with "Iraq's environmental crimes". Of that, £7.6 million will go to help European companies set up fire-fighting operations in Kuwait. Elf

Aquitaine of France, Agip of Italy and Petrofina of Belgium should be operating in Kuwait soon, according to Carlo Ripa di Meana, the European Commission's environment commissioner.

The American fire-fighters have strongly objected to these "interlopers", and were said to have threatened at one point to stop work if contracts were awarded to other companies. This fit of pique will probably pass, especially as the pace steps up once preparatory work is complete.

Already, a pipeline formerly used to take crude from the Ahmadi field has been converted to bring in sea water, which is pumped into big pits lined with polythene. Offers to convert other pipelines or to build new ones are being studied. Once sufficient water and equipment are available at the fields, progress should improve. Some experts think all the fires could be put out within a year.

But that will not end the problem. Many of the wells will have been so badly dam-

aged that they will need to be replaced. However, the occupying Iraqis destroyed or removed the computer tapes holding data from geophysical surveys of the oilfields. Kuwait has asked specialist companies that carried out the original surveys to scour their records for duplicate data. If these are not found, there will be further delays because of the need to carry out new surveys.

Beyond the oil wells, 18 of Kuwait's 23 oil-gathering centres, and much of its pipeline and export facilities, will have to be repaired or replaced, though this can be done to some extent in parallel with the fire-fighting. Meanwhile, the priority is to restore sufficient production to meet domestic needs to avoid the drain on foreign exchange reserves from oil-product imports.

Domestic consumption before the war ranged from 100,000 to 150,000 b/d, depending on the season. The much smaller population now in Kuwait, and the almost total absence of business activity, means that local demand could be met by crude output of only 50,000-70,000 b/d, and this should be available within a month or two.

Exports from Kuwait and Iraq have not been seriously missed because the world oil market is awash. But petroleum-product markets have missed the 700,000 b/d capacity of Kuwait's ultra-modern refineries. Damage to these

now appears less serious than first thought, and reports during the occupation that the Iraqis had completely dismantled one refinery and taken the parts to Iraq appear unfounded. It is likely that refining capacity will reach close to pre-crisis levels by the time full crude production is resumed some time next year.

There are few signs that Kuwait will significantly change its pre-crisis oil strategy once the sector is restored to normal. Reports of plans to sell off the European downstream operations (including refining, marketing and distribution) remain unconfirmed and unlikely.



Victim of Saddam's oil pollution: as many as 20,000 wading birds have been killed

Battle to salvage an ecological disaster

Smoke from burning oil wells, and oil slicks, have been the twin environmental scourges of the Gulf war, and a full evaluation of the damage is not yet available.

"We have never seen a pollution event of this magnitude before," says Richard Small, of the Pacific Sierra Research Corporation, a Californian think-tank, charged with estimating for the Pentagon the amount of smoke being produced by the blazing Kuwaiti oil wells, thought to number more than 500.

Dr Small believes that up to 16,000 tons of soot is produced daily. This is half a million tons a month, to which must be added perhaps another 100,000 tons of smoke from burning storage tanks.

Eventually, it will come down to earth and, according to Dr Small, there will be long-term damage to agriculture, vegetation, drinking water, people and animal populations over the 620-mile extent of the smoke plume, depending on the prevailing winds. The Pentagon is now planning a large-scale environmental experiment to assess the outcome.

One of the main problems, Dr Small says, is how the affected nations, including Saudi Arabia and Iran, are to go about seeking reparation from Iraq for the damage.

"How do you assess lower reproduction rates of grazing herds, or what value do you put on a damaged meadow?" he asks. "We will have to have a study of how nations can

Experts are still assessing pollution in the Gulf, but agree there will be long-term damage

react to pollution being transported to them from other countries."

Such legal questions may form part of the Pentagon's study, he says, adding: "One of the great ironies is that, because of the prevailing winds, Iraq, which caused the damage, will suffer the least."

Some American fire-fighters believe it could take two years to control the fires, and the damage is likely to overshadow that to the marine environment.

"The amount of oil spilt is less than first announced - the largest slick is thought to be two million barrels rather than 12 - and has not reached Bahrain or the United Arab Emirates, stretching down the Saudi coast only as far as the headland of Abu Ali, north of Jubail. There, a fortuitous combination of tides, wind and coastal topography has prevented further movement. It has backed up in a bay and is being tackled by the clean-up teams."

According to Robin Pellew, the director of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, which has been watching the environmental situation, the slick has affected about 100 miles of the Saudi

coastline, with 30 to 40 miles hit badly. Two bays, Abu Ali and Manifa, have been heavily contaminated with crude oil, he says, and the shrimp fishery there, supporting, representing about 25 per cent of the Saudi shrimp industry, has been lost.

"That is probably the worst economic damage the slick has caused," Dr Pellew says. "The effect on wildlife has been surprisingly light." No dolphins or dugongs have been reported killed, and perhaps a mere half dozen turtles. The worst effect, he says, has been on wading birds. Perhaps 20,000 have been killed.

Although the pollution of air, land and sea has been calamitous in the Gulf, the global catastrophe predicted before the war was exaggerated. In November, King Hussein of Jordan accurately predicted the mass firing of Kuwait's oil wells by the Iraqis, but was less accurate about its consequences.

The smoke cloud would spread for 500 miles, he said, and there would be a massive addition to global warming from the carbon dioxide produced by the fires. In January, several scientists associated with the Green party went even further, saying the smoke cloud would affect the Asian monsoon, on whose rain-bearing properties a million people depend.

Most meteorologists now agree that although weather will be affected locally, the smoke cloud will not affect the world's climate.

MICHAEL MCCARTHY

£30 billion bill to clean up

KUWAIT may have the financial resources to pay for rebuilding the country, but the real problem is cash flow: how to finance the reconstruction programme and routine government expenditure until oil exports return to pre-war levels (Shakh Otaqui writes).

The initial estimates that rebuilding would cost £60 billion or more now look greatly exaggerated, as much of the damage has been found to be superficial. A more sensible estimate

would be £23 billion to £30 billion.

This could be further reduced by political decisions. Several ministers have been quoted as saying that the government intends to control the number of expatriate workers, reducing the population to 1.2 million, compared with the two million at the time of the Iraqi invasion. There has also been talk of control over allowing foreign workers to bring in families, giving Kuwaitis a bigger role.

The government has said that it does not intend to liquidate assets in the West to a major extent.

Such a move would cause havoc in the equity and property markets of the countries that helped liberate Kuwait, and also lower the value of Kuwaiti investments.

Kuwait is likely to approach international banks for financing, using its oil reserves, still the world's third or fourth largest, as collateral.

British companies win 22 per cent of contracts

Joint ventures with Arab businesses have been welcomed

British companies have won 22 per cent of the contracts issued in the emergency stages of Kuwait's reconstruction. However, they face stiff competition from Americans, French, Italians and others.

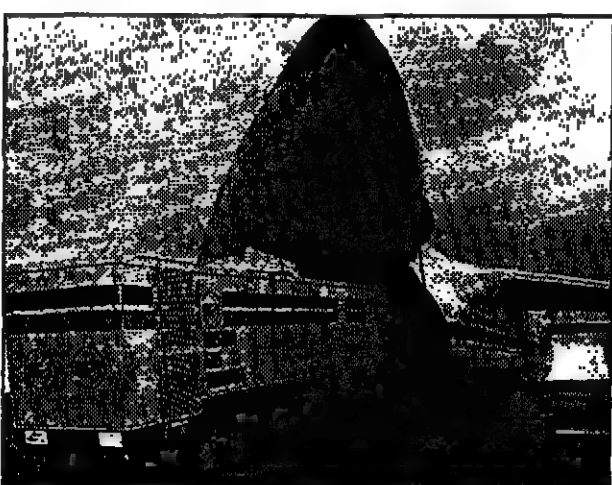
The Kuwaiti government and private sector are prepared to take advantage of renewed interest by American companies in the Middle East as a reward for the United States' leading role in the liberation.

Locally-based companies are benefiting from Kuwait's heightened desire to be seen as supportive of other Arab states. Several foreign companies are forming joint ventures with Arab companies.

Wimpey, the British contractor, is well placed, having worked with Mohammed Kharafi, Kuwait's leading building and civil engineering company, and is on the shortlist for refurbishment of the Bayan Palace conference centre.

Competition from German and Japanese companies is more low-key, but these companies are confident that the Kuwaitis' intention to return to original suppliers will help them.

One British company to benefit from this approach is British Electricity International, National Power's overseas subsidiary. The company,



GEC has supplied turbines for electricity generation

which supplied power-station staff before the war, has been able to increase the number of its workers in the country.

AT&T, the American telecommunications giant, moved fast to win the contract to restore the communications network. US TC, the mobile telephone specialist, has ridden on the back of AT&T. Britain's SSL International Satellite, however, has supplied some satellite links. Computers for the communications system and other administrative functions are from Cognate Consortium Computers, also British.

British companies have scored successes in re-equipping the health sector. London Medical and Shanning Mobile Medical Centres secured contracts before the country was liberated. Taylors International Service Catering is now catering for hospitals.

DHL, the operator of parcel services, moved quickly back into Kuwait after the libera-

tion to resume deliveries.

Most of the work, an estimated £15 billion, will come from capping the burning wells and restoring production. Originally, American companies seemed to have monopolised the fire-fighting, but companies from other countries may now have a chance. A British consortium, of Taylor Woodrow, Amec and Wimpey, is offering fire-fighting expertise from within BP.

Most construction plant and equipment was looted or destroyed by the Iraqis. Again the Americans proved the quickest, and Caterpillar diggers were working in Kuwait days after liberation. However, JCB, the leading British plant supplier, is now pouring in supplies with some success.

British engineering consultants stand to re-establish their influential position in Kuwait. LG Mouchel worked on the road expansion scheme before the war.

J.R. Knowles, the construction cost consultant, has received many requests for information.

The consultants may find work countering the environmental damage caused by the oil fires and the slick in the Gulf. Schlumberger International, of Aberdeen, is working as a subcontractor to American companies testing the damage to reservoirs.

British consultancies, such as Baker & McKenzie, should be well placed to offer legal services because Kuwait's law is derived from Britain's. ALASTAIR McLELLAN

The author writes for New Builder.

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Tipitaka	Transport	
2	PKI	Electronics	
3	Road Int	Newspapers, Pub	
4	Roughage	Property	
5	Premier	Oil, Gas	
6	TSS	Bank, Discount	
7	Abbey National	Bank, Discount	
8	Parsons	Newspapers, Pub	
9	Chas A	Drugs, Stores	
10	Ladbrokes	Book, Casino	
11	De La Rue	Industrial A-D	
12	Parsons	Electronics	
13	Gayco	Property	
14	Hardy O & G	Oil, Gas	
15	Coventry	Drugs, Stores	
16	Guinness Mahon	Bank, Discount	
17	Rothmans	Tobacco	
18	Chas A	Industrial A-D	
19	PKI	Industrial A-D	
20	St. Andrew	Mon, Alch	
21	Chas A	Industrial A-D	
22	Alstair	Drugs, Stores	
23	Barton	Drugs, Stores	
24	Nobis	Industrial A-D	
25	Dixons	Drugs, Stores	
26	Burdys	Bank, Discount	
27	Tramcar	Book, Casino	
28	BTR	Industrial A-D	
29	Grand M	Mon, Alch	
30	NFC	Transport	
31	Asac Fisheries	Foods	
32	News Corp	Newspapers, Pub	
33	Timex	Industrial A-D	
34	BEI	Industrial A-D	
35	Ranger Group	Drugs, Stores	
36	Sale	Industrial A-D	
37	BAT	Tobacco	
38	Cable Wireless	Electronics	
39	Nisa Foods	Foods	
40	Maris	Drugs, Stores	
41	Broken Hill	Industrial A-D	
42	Gr. Portland	Property	
43	Br Airways	Transport	
44	Utd Newspapers	Newspapers, Pub	
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Please take into account any minus signs

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Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

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Unit Price

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Unit Price

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Unit Price

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Unit Price

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Moderate rises

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 15. Dealings end Friday. \$Contango day Monday. Settlement day May 7.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.00	Tipitaka	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	12.5
100.00	99.00	PKI	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	12.5
100.00	99.00	Road Int	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	12.5
100.00	99.00	Roughage	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	12.5
100.00	99.00	Premier	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	12.5
100.00	99.00	TSS	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	12.5
100.00	99.00	Abbey National	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	12.5
100.00	99.00	Parsons	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	12.5
100.00	99.00	Chas A	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	12.5
100.00	99.00	Ladbrokes	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	12.5
100.00	99.00	De La Rue	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	12.5
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100.00	99.00	Hardy O & G	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	12.5
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Japanese computer firm hopes to tighten grip in Europe

NEC prepares to buy into Bull

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

NEC Corp. of Japan, is considering taking a stake in Groupe Bull, the French state-owned computer maker.

NEC said Bull had asked it to acquire a stake and the matter was now under negotiation. The Japanese firm has been supplying mainframe computers to be sold under Bull's brand name, and both companies, together with Honeywell, of America, set up a joint venture in 1987 to design, produce and sell computers in America.

It is thought in Japan that NEC would take a 10 per cent stake in Bull and that the French government, which

had previously opposed such a move, has notified NEC that it would allow the deal.

The French government has a 76 per cent stake in Bull. Two weeks ago, Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commission commissioner, threatened an enquiry into moves to inject £680 million into Bull, after he received complaints from ICL, the Japanese/Canadian owned computer group that is based in Britain.

Roger Pannou, the French industry minister, claimed it was important for Europe to support its fragmented computer industry. However, sub-

sidies of the kind proposed by the French administration are a source of growing friction in Brussels between the free-market and the interventionists.

In Japan, it was felt that NEC's revelation was partly aimed at countering last year's purchase of ICL by Fujitsu, NEC's electronics rival. Daniel Whitten, electronics industry analyst at Prudential Securities (Japan), said: "It is obvious they need a bigger presence in Europe because Fujitsu got one up on them."

Bull, however, faces serious problems. It suffered a net loss of Fr6.79 billion (£675 million) last year after a Fr266.7 million loss in 1989.

Steve Myers, analyst at Jardine Fleming Securities, said: "Bull was, and still is, a poorly-managed company under state ownership. It had to pick up a lot of companies that didn't make sense — it was partly a welfare organisation."

Bull's dependence on the relatively small French market has also contributed to its troubles, Mr Myers said.

Analysts believe that NEC, despite a considerable presence in Europe, may hope to gain a higher local profile as well as become better placed in the European market before the dawn of the single market in 1992.

Mr Whitten added: "It's a strategic move to get behind any barriers that may go up after EC unification."

NEC said it was unable to comment on the size of a possible stake being discussed between the two firms. However, *Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun*, the Tokyo newspaper, claims NEC would take a 10 per cent stake in Bull and that the French government, which had previously opposed the deal, had now signalled its approval.

However, such a small stake might not be enough to help solve Bull's troubles and might not really bring NEC major benefits, some analysts said.

Mr Myers, noting that Bull's problems were a less attractive investment than ICL was for Fujitsu, said: "NEC won't get a lot unless they get management control."

Peter Wolff, a vice-president at Kidder, Peabody International, the broker, said: "I don't know if NEC would get what it wants. Maybe they would get market access, but they'd also get Bull."



Stress on support: Roger Pannou, French minister

North 'will be first region to come out of recession'

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE North of England will lead the way out of the recession, according to a survey published yesterday.

Exports have been holding up well and the longer term view on profits and turnover also remains "encouraging", says the review by the Northern Development Company and local chambers of commerce.

John Bridge, chief executive of the Northern Development Company, said: "The North was the last region to enter the recession and there is every sign it will be among the first to come out of it."

The area, covering Tyne & Wear, Cleveland, Durham, Northumberland and Cumbria, used to suffer worst during times of slump, but



Bridge 'exports holding up'

industrial revitalisation during the Eighties reversed the trend.

The region has not escaped the recession completely. Replies from more than 800 companies indicated that more than a third of manufacturing firms and a quarter of

Britain is 'facing huge fuel imports'

BY OUR CITY STAFF

FUEL imports could be running at £8 billion a year by the turn of the century, a leading industrialist said yesterday. Malcolm Edwards, commercial director at British Coal, called for a long-term energy policy to avoid huge imports of gas, oil and coal.

In a lecture to the Institute of Energy at Trentham, Stoke, he said: "The culture of the Nineties is already clear for energy, and, I believe, for the economy as a whole. Within the next decade, oil imports could be costing the UK £4 billion a year."

"Coal imports could cost at least \$1.5 billion a year and before long, gas imports would add a further £2 billion to the annual fuel bill," he said.

Fuel policy needed to be based on long-term prospects, he said. Britain had to conserve the best of what it could and only import fuel when the alternative was uneconomic.

Mr Edwards added that near fixed-price coal contracts had done much to add strength to the successful flotation of the electricity industry.

Long-term contracts for British Coal, at a cost related to general prices in Britain, would provide the vital stability and security on power, prices that consumers needed, he said.

service companies cut their workforces during the first quarter of this year. However, the survey says exports held up well and employment was expected to stabilise over the next three months.

Peter Crowe, chief executive of the Teesside Chamber of Commerce, said: "A deterioration in business conditions in line with the national trend was to be expected. However, with the interest rate cuts since the Budget we may see some cautious optimism by the summer."

Bob Tilmonth, chief executive of the Tyne & Wear Chamber of Commerce, said that despite problems, 70 per cent of firms expected profits to rise or remain steady and 80 per cent expected to maintain or expand workforces in the coming year.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Call					Put						Call					Put				
	Strike	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Strike	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Strike	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug			
Alco Lyons	500	30	44	59	2	1	46	23					Racal	220	21	28	36	43	11	13	22
(252)	500	1	18	33	59	2	1	46	23				(254)	240	54	76	106	138	14	16	
ASDA	120	3	10	12	5	3	10	15					RTZ	280	14	45	128	143	14	16	
(122)	120	3	5	8	11	11	15	15					(256)	280	14	45	128	143	14	16	
B	700	34	72	102	2	2	36	33					550	19	40	50	17	25	36		
(599)	777	3	7	75	20	2	36	33					550	19	40	50	17	25	36		
BSN	1036	35	26	53	46	3	38	38					550	19	40	50	17	25	36		
(578)	360	16	27	35	1	1	11	17					550	19	40	50	17	25	36		
B Airways	180	24	15	22	17	1	11	17					550	19	40	50	17	25	36		
(149)	180	24	15	22	17	1	11	17					550	19	40	50	17	25	36		
BP	180	24	15	22	17	1	11	17					550	19	40	50	17	25	36		
(503)	180	24	15	22	17	1	11	17					550	19	40	50	17	25	36		
B Steel	140	2	13	12	13	7	1	12					550	19	40	50	17	25	36		
(L37)	140	2	13	12	13	7	1	12					550	19	40	50	17	25	36		
C W	160	4	14	9	23	30	3	31					550	19	40	50	17	25	36		
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THE TIMES WEDN

London had the disadvantage of losing its property market due to the fact that estate agents say it is evidence that the capital is to lead the recovery. However, no longer expected prices. The latest review by agent Bernard Marcus shows prices in prime central London areas rose by 0.5 per cent in the first quarter of 1991, and prices in the rest of Greater London and Surrey have risen by 1.5 per cent.

A substantial increase in enquiries and sales was reported even a few gaspings. About one per cent of prospective clients in the first-time buyers, compared with 10 per cent in the previous year. Demand exceeded supply and prices rose by 1.5 per cent. Property up to £200,000. Bernard Marcus therefore expects values to rise by 5 per cent during the second half of the year.

The end of the Gulf war and

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NOTES

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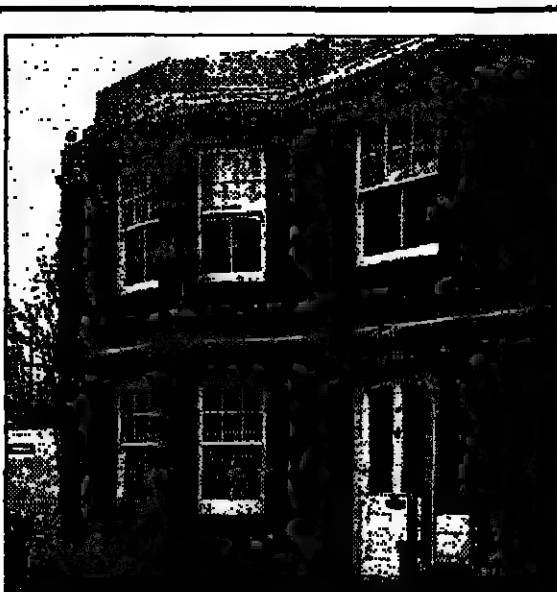
PART TIME VACANCIES

pages 42 and 43

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هكذا عن الامم



Right: thought to be one of central London's finest Queen Anne-style houses, the lease of this six-bedroom property in Chelsea Square, Chelsea, is for sale at £2,750,000 through John D. Wood.



Knight Frank & Rutley is selling **Cumberland Lodge**, a detached house of 12 rooms, on **Cumberland Crescent**, **West Kensington**, which has been extended since the actor **Michael Goldie** bought it six years ago when it was a porter's lodge in a street of houses. The cottage has two reception rooms and a walled rear garden, including a dovecot with doves. The asking price is £1.25 million.


On a grander scale, number **68 Chelsea Square**, **Chelsea**, was built when the square, which was then named **Trafalgar Square**, was created in 1828. Until this year it had been owned by one family and is considered one of central London's finest **Queen Anne**-style houses. The house, with an adjoining mews house, has reception rooms overlooking the square, a study, bedroom, two bathrooms, four cars and parking for another four.

The 35-year lease is being offered at £2,750,000 through **John D. Wood**.


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ICE HOCKEY

Raiders forfeit a Wembley place in dying seconds

By NORMAN De MESQUITA

"On the other hand, I had to ensure promotion this year to convince the doubters about what we were doing." One of Burwell's first tasks, at a club which is in the process of selling its present site at Pinchington Lane for several

Having a ball: Barwell, a former building society manager applying his financial acumen to a rugby club

By DAVID HANDS

game at West Hartlepool on Saturday and the match has been awarded to Hartlepool, who become champions.

[illegible]

... Danny Shea scored twice in the last 75 seconds to see the Pirates through.

... The Pirates will play for Ayr and Kilmarnock in the Scottish Cup, while the Puma play for Ayr and the Peterborough coach, took Ayr to Wembley two years ago. But there was no added satisfaction for him because he was not the expert of his former team. "I really did not want this to happen," he said.

The emotions are just too strong and you feel for the team because they are not in action on Sunday because they were on a thrilling game against Derbyshire on Saturday, hanging on to win 5-2.

... For the Racers, a surprise was followed by a disappointing performance against the Devils.

... Doug McGowan put Cardiff on a winning path.

... Humberstone Sawmills and Reckless Bees won their respective play-off groups to gain promotion to the league, while the quality of the play-off, Milton Keynes Kings joined Lee Valley Lions in the Heineken League next season.

RESULTS: Heineken Championship play-off
1. Milton Keynes Kings 2-1 Lee Valley Lions
2. Humberstone Sawmills 2-1 Reckless Bees
3. Northampton Racers 2-1 Weymouth Wanderers
4. Northampton Panthers 2-1 Southall Bees
5. Ayr Redwings 2-1 Peterborough Pirates
6. Weymouth Wanderers 2-1 Northampton Racers
7. Wexham 2-1 Southall Bees
8. Northampton Racers 2-1 Northampton Panthers
9. Weymouth Wanderers 2-1 Ayr Redwings
10. Wexham 2-1 Northampton Racers
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19. Wexham 2-1 Northampton Racers
20. Wexham 2-1 Northampton Racers

By Sally Jone

The pair's thoughtful tactics and ability to play to Frenn, the senior player on court, finally gave them the edge after some extraordinarily long rallies, full of fine retrieving and kills.

RESULT: N Smith and J Hurrell to J Hurrell and J Frenn, 15-2, 7-15, 15-12, 13-18, 15-4, 12-15, 15-12.

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THE TIMES

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Further to our free prize draw on April 17th, 18th and 19th at THE LONDON SECRETARIAL SHOW, we are pleased to announce the following winners:

CONGRATULATIONS!

Carol Oddy,
Miss D Bank,
Sally Holloway,
Mrs Y Luk,
Madge Jackman,

Marama Khawale,
Shelley Cuthbertson,
Isabel Gonzalez,
Kerry Soanes,
Vicki Burridge,
Shirmita Sharma

Rita Fichti,
Susan James,
Toni Phelps,
Sally Russell,
Anne Wilson,
Miss A Broomes

In order to claim your prize of Sensiq cosmetics please telephone 071-782 7931

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ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF ADDICTION

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Initially for 6 month contract with subsidiary of international pharmaceutical company based in West End. An enthusiastic and well presented typist is required to assist our Regulatory Affairs Manager. Full Wordperfect 5.1 competence, fast and accurate typist, plus flexibility and initiative essential. Pharmaceutical/medical background useful. An excellent remuneration package available for right candidate. Please send your CV with covering letter to: Human Resources, Administration Manager, PMA Finance Ltd, 61 Cannon Avenue, London W1N 0SA (NO AGENCIES PLEASE)

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Small busy consultancy company in W1 requires professional with 8 years experience, with good communication and business skills and pleasant manner for client calls. Wordperfect knowledge essential. Good salary and benefits. Salary £15,000-£16,000 per annum plus 10% for pension fund in this or other modern European pension. Call Andrew Matthews on 071-404 2083

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Further details and application form from Personnel Services, Polytechnic of East London, Romford Road, London E15 4LZ. Tel. 081 590 7722 ext 4321. Please quote ref. no. 30/N/91. Closing date 8th May 1991. The Polytechnic is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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YACHTING

Luck running out for Gautier as he awaits whim of breeze

By BARRY PICKTHALL
IN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

TIME and luck were running out last night for Alain Gautier, the French solo yachtsman, in his struggle to return here in time to win the BOC single-handed round the world race. He was pipped to the finish on the last stage of this 27,000-mile marathon early yesterday by Christophe Auguin, whose 60ft French yacht, Groupe Soeta, swept in on the last of the breeze to lay claim to the prize of \$100,000 (about £58,150).

Gautier, whose similar yacht, Generali Concorde, had taken up the overall lead since February 18 when John Martin's South African entry, Allied Bank, sank after hitting a growler in the Southern Ocean, began this final 6,000-mile leg from Punta del Este with a 21hr 26min advantage. Auguin's sprint to the finish left the 28-year-old Frenchman with a deadline of 02.37 GMT this morning to retain his hold on the trophy. However, four hours after Auguin's arrival, Gautier was still more than 217 miles from the finish, struggling to better one knot in the fickle breeze.

He must have have ruled the

day last September when his yacht arrived at Newport late for scrutineering and was given a one-and-a-half-hour penalty. That controversial imposition cost him victory on the first stage of the race to Cape Town, and it now looks as if it may also cost him the first prize. The only consolation then would be if he finishes before 19:07 GMT this evening, he can at least claim the record time for the voyage.

For the moment however, that laurel also goes to Auguin, whose time of 120 days 22 hours 36 minutes to complete the three-stop race, is more than 13 days inside the previous record set by Philippe Jeantot four years ago. Yesterday, the 30-year-old winner of the leg, put his late success down to a mainsail borrowed from a 60ft catamaran for this last stage of the race which increased sail area by 15 square metres and to the weather routing advice given twice a day by a French meteorologist. "The last three days have been very hard. I have had only two hours sleep each day," the exhausted skipper said on arrival after spending



Auguin first to finish line

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ROUND-THE-WORLD RECORDS

Solo non-stop
First: 1969, Robin Knox-Johnston, 32ft Suhaili (GB), 313 days.
Present record: 1989, Olivier de Kersauson, 75ft Irizarre, Un Autre Regard (Fr), 125 days 19hr 32min.
Solo circumnavigations with stops
First: 1986, Joshua Slocum, 36ft Spray (US), 3 years 2 months.
1982-3 BOC Challenge: Philippe Jeantot, 58ft Credit Agricole (Fr), 169 days 02hr 20min.
1985-7 BOC Challenge: Philippe Jeantot, 60ft Credit Agricole II (Fr), 134 days 05hr 23min.
1981-2 BOC Challenge: Christophe Auguin, 60ft Groupe Soeta (Fr), 120 days 22hr 36min.

ing every waking hour urging the last ounce of speed out of his yacht.

For the first week, there was little to divide the two French rivals, but once in the Trade winds, the extra sail area carried on Groupe Soeta began to pay off. "I began making about seven miles a day and by the Doldrums, had opened up a 100-mile lead," he recalled. Two days before finishing, however, his yacht was knocked down after being caught by a 55-knot squall midway between Bermuda and the finish.

"The mast went right into the water. I was very lucky," Auguin said as both he and Gautier began the countdown to see which has won this classic race.

FINAL STAGE: 1, Groupe Soeta (Fr) Auguin, 60ft, 120 days 22hr 36min. 2, Generali Concorde (Fr) Gautier, 60ft, 121 days 02hr 37min. 3, Allied Bank (SA) Martin, 40ft, 121 days 02hr 37min. 4, Irizarre (Fr) de Kersauson, 75ft, 125 days 19hr 32min.

Other positions (at 02.00 GMT yesterday with miles to Newport, Trade Island) 5, 1, 2, Generali Concorde (Fr) Gautier, 60ft, 217 miles. 6, Credit Agricole (Fr) Jeantot, 58ft, 447. 7, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 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987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

HOCKEY

SA see a chance to make return

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

THERE is a faint chance that South Africa will take part in the hockey event at the Africa Games starting in Cairo on September 20. Should they win it they will qualify automatically for the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

The admission of the South African hockey team to the Africa Games however, is dependent on their satisfying the conditions laid down by the International Olympic Committee: that apartheid is abolished and that the South African Hockey Association is completely integrated.

South Africa have never been expelled from the International Hockey Federation, although they lost their vote at the FIH Congress and, because of their apartheid laws, have for many years been excluded from organised competition.

After the Barcelona Olympics, the Hockey Rules Board is expected to act on the views of national associations who, according to George Croft, the secretary, are being asked by letter to state how the game can be made more attractive.

Countries will consider, among other things, the merits of the experimental rule of rolling substitutes, otherwise known as the inter-change. There is also talk of abolishing the offside and obstruction laws.

THE twin triumphs of Lisa Opie and Jahangir Khan in the Hi-Tec British open championships at Wembley were approached from almost exactly opposing experiences reaching back a decade.

Opie's 44-minute 6-9, 9-3, 9-3, 9-4 win over Sue Wright, the 13th seeded giant-killer from Kent, was the seemingly unattainable target through ten years of less than fully rewarded brilliance since she left her father's Guernsey pottery to set up in the professional squash business in Nottingham. It was virtually influenced by ten months of analysis with the sports psychologist, Graham Jones.

Jahangir's increasingly authoritative 94-minute 2-9, 9-4, 9-4, 9-0 control of Jahangir Khan, the top-seeded world champion, was his tenth successive win in the game's greatest tournament and a return to supreme fitness that seemed impossible when he broke down in Canada five months ago and talked of retirement.

Here was the product of an all-English clash which brought the British title home for the first time since the redoubtable Heather McKay defeated Fran Marshall in 1962 to start her 16-year sequence of success and then Antipodean domination continued by New Zealand's

SQUASH RACKETS

Psychologist plays key role in Opie triumph

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

Susan Devoy over the last seven years. His was the gift of an all-Pakistani affair that continued the extraordinary saga of a Pathan family now boasting 22 British Open titles between two immediately related generations.

"I wanted this one almost as much as last year's record-breaking ninth title," Jahangir said. "There are not too many years left for anyone to equal my run before the year 2000. I have to be recorded as the player of the century."

Opie was close to believing she would go down as the "nearly miss" of the century. She had won virtually everything in the game, including four national championships and a

reputation as one of the great female racket technicians. But the big two titles eluded her. This was her fifth British open final and she had lost two world finals.

Temperament was ever the problem. When the great prizes came within reach, panic and anxiety would take control. Spontaneous outbursts, shrieks and swear words frequent, physical gestures and racket checking never far away.

Last July she consulted Jones, a sports psychology lecturer at Loughborough.

Jones reshaped the mental and physical patterns that led to tantrums. "Graham has taught me breathing techniques for controlling panic and relaxation triggers to deal with the anxiety."

Opie's corner was a fever of activity and exultation at Wembley, a stimulus that certainly helped the 20-year-old drive beyond the world numbers one, three and eight on the way to the final. Opie absorbed a terse command from Jones.

"After I lost the first game he told me to start a new match from 0-0. When I came off 2-1 up I was starting to compose what I would say to the Duke of Edinburgh at the presentation. He said to me a set of breathing exercises to think about instead."



Opie: No tantrums

RACING

Peking Opera earns classical praises after sparkling run

By RICHARD EVANS

MICHAEL Stoute sounded like Gilbert and Sullivan yesterday as he ruled out Opera House from running in the Ever Ready Derby, but produced Peking Opera as a serious contender for the Epsom classic in six weeks' time.

Opera House was 14-1 favourite for the race until injuring a fetlock while exercising three weeks ago. The Newmarket trainer cautioned punters about backing the beautifully bred Sadler's Wells colt following the setback and yesterday ruled him out of the 2,000 Guineas following a brief cancer.

"Everything is suspended with him. He definitely won't make the Derby," he said. Within hours of the decision Stoute had every reason to be dreaming of winning a third Derby following Peking Opera's sparkling win in the Warren Stakes at Kempton.

Despite entering the short straight last of the five runners, Steve Causton knew a long way from home the race was his for the taking. Opera House sped past his four rivals to strike the front a furlong and a half out and went on to beat Circus Light by ten lengths.

Victor Chandler was so impressed by the ease and fluency of the victory that he installed the Sheikh Mohammed-owned colt as 16-1 joint favourite behind the 12-1 favourite Marjia. William Hill, Coral and Ladbrokes all go 25-1.

With the race run in a time almost four seconds slower than average, the form may not amount to too much, but Peking Opera could hardly have won more impressively.

"Steve felt he had it won a long way from home. Peking Opera is well entered. He is a lazy home worker and he surprised me when he was second first time out last season behind Sapientia. He appears to be progressing," the trainer said.

Stoute's horses were calling the tune on more than one classic front yesterday with

Mujazib being heavily backed for the 2,000 Guineas. Although he was a 10-1 favourite, the winner goes for the Newmarket classic in ten days' time without a run this season. Mujazib has been out to 14-1 from 25-1 by William Hill. "He has been pleasing us, which is why we are letting him take his chance."

Stoute will take a decision this morning on Peking Opera's participation in the 1,000 Guineas following work on Newmarket's gallops.

Peter Walwyn denied any decision had been taken about Mujazib's participation in the 2,000 Guineas. Speaking after watching Farm Street return to form with a win the Ladbrokes Credit Handicap, the Lambourn trainer said he was meeting Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, the colt's owner, this evening.

Causton, who was completing a 65-1 double, is set to ride in The Groove in the Trusthouse Forte Mile at Sandown on Friday. David Elsworth is also hoping to secure the jockey's services for Tetradonna in the 1,000 Guineas. John Williams and Cash Associates have been booked to ride Elsworth's two other runners in the filly's classic, Silver Braid and Zigzag.

No Submission, winner of the Rosbury Handicap at Kempton three weeks ago, again made all to win the competitive Westminster-Motor (Taxi) Insurance City and Suburban Handicap by a length from Minimize.

Charlie Nelson's tough handicapper will now be aimed at the Zenaido Gold Cup over Whitson, provided the ground is not too fast.

Mr Frisk out

MR FRISK will not run in the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown on Saturday after disappointing in his work on the Lambourn gallops. Kim Bailey said: "I am not happy with him. He didn't stride out as well as he can and is obviously not 100 per cent."

RESULTS FROM

Kempton Park

2.15 SCOTT OSWALD CLAIM

2.45 VELUX HANDICAP CHAS

3.15 HILLTOWN PROPERTY C

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Kempton Park

2.15 SCOTT OSWALD CLAIM

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3.15 HILLTOWN PROPERTY C

WHAT THE NEWLY CROWNED KING AND QUEEN WEAR AROUND COURT.



Congratulations to Lisa Opie and Jahangir Khan on their triumphs in the British Open Squash Championships.

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FOOTBALL

REAL TENNIS

LORDS: George Wimpey (British amateur champion); First round: J. Snow vs. B. Cline, 6-0, 5-6, 5-6; Second round: S.-I. Gai vs. J. A. Page vs. C. Giam, 5-4, 5-4, 5-4.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: First division: 11/10, 2/12, 2/12/12/12.

RUGBY UNION

HEIMEX NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Edow Vale 5, Manning 32.

BOXING

GLASSBORO CHALLENGER for British (110 mts) and American (125 mts) titles: J. McAdams (Chicago), 2nd mt Featherweight (5 mts) vs. J. O'Connell (Pawley) vs. Neil Smith (Scotchman), pts.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

WORLD LEAGUE (NFL): New York-Yankee Kings 28, Sacramento Surge 31.

CRICKET

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Forty Club 138, Weymouth 138, MCC 120-5 (June 11/12), Weymouth Club 124, Puddingston 270-2; Report 270-3 (Pudding 103), Puddingston Club 110 and 107-7, Weymouth Club 103-7; Report Weymouth Club 201-6, First Puddingston 203-6. HOFER (50 overs) vs. Weymouth 160-4 (A. A. Macdonald, 30; Vancouver sent by rain makes).

SPEEDWAY

GOLD CUP: First division: Coventry 45, Ipswich 40, Wolverhampton 40, Reading 32. Second division: Exeter 33, Arena Stars 27.

TOUR MATCHES: Newcastle 54, Hungary 35.

